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## Warriors Queens Rulers Women



Long before—and during—the European colonization of Africa, ancient kingdoms and empires thrived for centuries on the continent. Some were headed by women, including female warriors who led armies against invading European powers to defend their people from conquest and enslavement.

Even though Black women have been at the forefront of impressive exploits in combat, their stories are often overlooked. The following African female warrior queens and all-female armies are among those who fought for freedom from colonial occupation.

Queen Amanirenas, circa 40 B.C.

Queen Amanirenas ruled the Kingdom of Kush from 40 B.C. to 10 B.C., in the Nubian region, now modern-day Sudan. When Roman emperor Augustus conquered neighboring Egypt in 30 B.C.—with plans to next invade Kush—Amanirenas launched a surprise attack on the Romans.

Leading an army of 30,000 from the frontlines, Amanirenas successfully captured three Roman-ruled cities. But it wasn't long before Rome retaliated, invading Kush, destroying the Kingdom's capital and selling thousands into slavery. After years of bitter fighting and significant casualties on both sides, negotiations to end the war began in 24 B.C., culminating in a peace treaty five years after the fighting first began.

Although the hostilities ended

in a stalemate, Queen Amanirenas—unlike many of her neighbors—was victorious in resisting conquest by Rome, never ceding large swaths of territory or paying taxes to the empire. Amanirenas is remembered throughout the Nile Valley and beyond as the Nubian queen who conquered the Romans.

Queen Nzinga Mbande (c. 1583-1663)

An adept politician and skilled military strategist, Queen Nzinga Mbande was the ruler of the Mbundu people in what is now Angola.

With the growing demand for slave labor, Portugal had established a colony near Mbundu land to expand the slave trade. Nzinga became queen in 1626 after her brother, the former king, committed suicide in the face of rising Portuguese encroachment. But before she became queen, at her brother's request, Nzinga met with the Portuguese to negotiate peace.

An adept negotiator, she formed a strategic alliance with Portugal in 1622. Facing attacks from rival African aggressors looking to capture people for the slave trade, Nzinga's pact with the Portuguese allowed her to fight enemy tribes to enslave for Portugal in exchange for weapons and an agreement that the Portuguese would cease slave raids on the Mbundu people.

But by the time she became queen in 1626, Portugal had broken its side of the deal. Nzinga refused to give in to the Portu-

guese without a fight. In 1627, she formed a temporary alliance with the Dutch—an enemy of the Portuguese—and led an army against them.

Through her leadership, Nzinga successfully held off the Portuguese forces for decades, personally leading her troops into battle—even while in her sixties. Despite multiple attempts by the Portuguese to capture Nzinga, they never succeeded. She died peacefully in her 80s, after a long life of defending her people from colonial rule.

Queen Nanny (c. 1685-c. 1750)

Queen Nanny was the leader of the Jamaican Maroons, a community of formerly enslaved Africans who fought the British for their freedom.

As a child, Nanny was kidnapped from Ghana and enslaved in Jamaica. She escaped, joining other formerly enslaved people who sought refuge in the island's Blue Mountain region. By 1720, thanks to her exceptional leadership and military skills, she'd become head of the Maroon settlement. That year she began to train her people in guerilla warfare.

Queen Nanny led the Maroons into dozens of successful battles, freeing over 800 enslaved people. Her clever strategies allowed the Maroons to catch the heavily armed British by surprise and decimate their numbers.

By 1740, the British were forced to sign a peace treaty

with the Maroons, guaranteeing their freedom. In 1975, the government of Jamaica declared Queen Nanny a National Heroine and awarded her the title of "Right Excellent" for her strength and courage. Her portrait appears on the \$500 Jamaican dollar bill.

The Dahomey Amazons (1600s-1890s)

Named after the race of women warriors from Greek mythology, the Dahomey Amazons were an all-female military regiment in the Kingdom of Dahomey, now present-day Benin.

Reportedly assembled in the mid-to-late 1600s, the Amazons were known for their indifference to pain and fierceness in battle, as well as having great socio-political influence over their kingdom. To protect and enrich their own empire, there were periods when the Amazons cooperated with European colonialists, selling captured enemies from regional scuffles in exchange for weaponry and goods.

By the mid-1800s, they numbered between 1,000 to 6,000 women. When the French invaded Dahomey in 1892, the Amazons put up an aggressive resistance. Afterward, the French soldiers noted their "incredible courage and audacity" in combat, as cited by the African American Registry, an online consortium of

Black history educators.

Fierce battling between the Amazons and Europeans continued, but the African female warriors were eventually outnumbered and outgunned and, within a few years, they were largely wiped-out.

While the Amazons were certainly powerful fighters, Leonard Wantchekon, a professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University, argues it's important to look beyond the shock value of their female warrior status when considering the Amazons' legacy in history.

"The most important feature of the Amazons was not that they could kill like men," says Wantchekon, a Benin native. "They were also regular people with regular lives, as well as well-respected cultural and political leaders in their communities."

There is a widespread misconception that gender equity is a western value, adds Wantchekon, when in fact, European colonization was a detriment to women's rights in Benin, where the French disassembled the Amazons and banned female education and political leadership.

"When we push back against this misconception and embrace the culture of gender equality that was thriving in Benin and places like it before colonization," Wantchekon adds, "it is a way to embrace the legacy of this exceptional group of African female leaders that European history tried so hard to erase."

Yaa Asantewaa (c. 1840-1921)

Yaa Asantewaa was queen of the prosperous Ashanti Empire, also called Asante, in now modern-day Ghana. As queen, she was the official protector of the empire's most sacred object, the Golden Stool. Made of solid gold and believed to house the soul of the nation, the stool represented the royal and divine throne of the empire. When British troops invaded in 1886, and demanded possession of the sacred object, Asantewaa refused. Instead, she led an army against them.

"I shall call upon my fellow women. We will fight the white men. We will fight until the last of us falls in the battlefields," Yaa Asantewaa famously said.

For months, starting in 1900, Asantewaa's troops laid siege to the British occupying forces, who very nearly collapsed. Only after the British brought in several thousand additional troops and pounds of artillery were they able to defeat Asantewaa's army. Asantewaa—who fought alongside her people until the very end—was captured and exiled to the Seychelles until her death in 1921. Her bravery and resistance in spite of the impossible odds have made her one of history's most famous warrior queens to this day.

Profiles provided by History.com

## What Is Restorative Investing Exactly?

By Dr. Joy Martinez

Staff Writer

Restorative investing is an investment strategy that focuses on generating positive social and environmental impact alongside financial returns. The goal is to create sustainable solutions to social challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change while also creating economic opportunities for underserved communities. One of the most significant challenges that restorative investing seeks to address is the generational wealth gap. However, it is very different from attempts to right a wrong with compensation, as reparations

seeks to do.

While restorative investing can help address systemic inequalities and promote economic opportunity for underserved communities, it is not the same as reparations. Restorative investing does not involve a legal or political process, nor does it specifically target compensation for past injustices. Rather, it focuses on creating sustainable solutions to social challenges and investing in businesses that prioritize social and environmental impact.

The generational wealth gap is the unequal distribution of wealth among different age groups. According to a report by the Federal Reserve, the wealth

gap between the youngest and oldest generations has been widening for the past few decades. In 1989, the median net worth of households headed by someone over the age of 65 was ten times higher than the median net worth of households headed by someone under the age of 35. In 2019, that gap had widened to eighteen times higher.

Restorative investing can help close the generational wealth gap by providing opportunities for entrepreneurship and wealth creation. By investing in businesses that are focused on social and environmental impact, investors can help create jobs and stimulate economic growth in under-

served communities. According to Judy Belk, CEO of The California Wellness Foundation, "Restorative investing is about providing opportunities for people who have been historically left out of the economic system. It's about investing in businesses that are focused on creating social impact and generating wealth for underserved communities."

One organization that is committed to restorative investing is the Kapor Center, a nonprofit organization that focuses on increasing diversity and inclusion in the technology industry. According to Cedric Brown, man-

(See **INVESTING**, P. 3)



### NORTH CAROLINA SENATE REDUCES WAIT FOR UNSUPERVISED DRIVING

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — More young North Carolina drivers wouldn't have to hold a learner's permit as long before advancing to unsupervised driving in legislation approved by the state Senate on last Thursday.

The bill in essence extends and modifies state law approved during the COVID-19 pandemic that shortened from 12 months to six the time that a teenager had to hold the permit before getting what's called a limited provisional license. That law, which was designed to help children with delayed driver's education classes, expired Jan. 1.

The measure, which passed 38-5 and now heads to the House, would reinstate the six-month minimum for the rest of 2023 before settling permanently at nine months. The measure wouldn't eliminate other requirements to obtain the limited provisional license, such as being at least 16 years old, logging 60 hours behind the wheel with a supervising driver — usually a parent — and passing a road test.

Sen. Vickie Sawyer, an Iredell County Republican and bill sponsor, said the legislation responds to young drivers' requests and would also more closely align the waiting period with that of young drivers in Virginia and South Carolina.

The bill also would slightly ease passenger constraints for a limited provisional licensee. Current law says when an unsupervised driver carries family members under age 21, no unrelated person under 21 can also be a passenger. The bill says the driver could ferry an unrelated passenger under 21 at the same time, but only for travel to and from school.

North Carolina has a three-step graduated license system for teen drivers that can begin at 15. A child can receive a full provisional license as soon as age 16 1/2.

### SPORTS WAGERING GETTING 2ND CHANCE IN NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A second-chance effort this year to authorize sports wagering across North Carolina took off on Tuesday with its relatively easy passage through a state House committee already favorably disposed to the idea.

The House Commerce Committee voted 17-10 for the measure, which, if enacted, would open wide the sports wagering industry within the country's ninth most populous state. It's a largely untapped market, with several major-league sports franchises, college basketball, NASCAR and golf.

The bill would allow online and some in-person betting on professional, college and Olympic-type sports offered through up to a dozen wagering companies.

"There is big money in sports, as we know," Rep. Jason Saine, a Lincoln County Republican and a chief bill sponsor, said during committee debate. "We feel like this is a responsible way to approach this issue."

Whether this form of legalized gambling will cross the legislative finish line this year is no sure bet yet. A very similar measure failed by one vote in the House last year after advancing comfortably through the Senate in 2021.

## Residents Sue LA Parish To Halt Polluting Plants

Residents of a Louisiana parish located in the heart of a cluster of polluting petrochemical factories filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday raising allegations of civil rights, environmental justice and religious liberty violations.

The lawsuit names St. James Parish as the defendant and says the parish council approved the construction of several factories in two Black districts of the parish that emit harmful amounts of toxic chemicals. It said the pollution negatively affected the health of the area's Black residents.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are calling for a moratorium on petrochemical plants like one being built by Formosa Plastics that was approved by the council in 2019. The Associated Press reached out to the council for comment but did not receive an immediate response.

For several years, Black residents of St. James Parish have lobbied the parish council and state government to do something about petrochemical plants emitting toxic chemicals into the air they breathe. But they've been ignored, according to Shamyra Lavigne of Rise St. James, a local climate justice organization.

"We stand here today to say we will not be ignored. You will not sacrifice our lives. And we will not take any more industry in



the fourth or fifth district of St. James. Enough is enough," Lavigne said at a news conference announcing the lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana.

Lavigne was one of St. James residents at the briefing who shared about their frustration from living near polluting factories and how they believe the parish council is responsible for creating environmental injustice.

"Every one of us has been touched by the parish's repeated decisions to pack Black neighborhoods with toxic chemical plants," said Barbara Washington, co-founder of the environmental

justice organization Inclusive Louisiana. "Every one of us has had stories about our own health and the health of our relatives and friends, who have had .... cancer and COPD."

The plaintiffs live along Cancer Alley, an 85-mile (135-kilometer) corridor that runs along the Mississippi River between New Orleans to Baton Rouge and is filled with industrial plants that emit toxic chemicals, some of which are known carcinogens. In 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency said it has evidence that Black residents in the region have an increased risk of cancer from at least one nearby plant,

which they sued last month in a separate case.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday also claims that some of the factories were built on and destroyed the burial grounds of deceased slaves, which made it impossible for their descendants visit their dead ancestors. Some of these descendants, plaintiffs claim, are among those affected by the toxic chemical releases.

"For some of us, St. James Parish is .... the home of our ancestors, who were slaves, who worked the land for generations and never got paid," said Gail LeBoeuf, another co-founder of Inclusive Louisiana. LeBoeuf has liver cancer, which she acknowledged can't be traced back to petrochemical plant pollution with certainty, but said it can't be ruled out either.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs said they are seeking remedies for the environmental injustices sustained by the residents, which they seek to halt by invalidating permits for factories underway and land use regulations that allow for the placement of factories in black districts. They are also seeking independent environmental monitoring of air, water and soil. The case will be assigned and the parish will be served, then will have an opportunity to respond in the coming weeks.

# Dr. Anita Thomas Named 11th Pres. of North Central College

PRNewswire— Anita Thomas, Ph.D., has been selected as the 11th president of North Central College beginning July 1, 2023. In North Central's 162-year history, Thomas is the first woman and the first person of color chosen to become the long-serving president.

"Having the opportunity to become part of this extraordinary institution is truly a great joy and honor," she said. "North Central is preparing our next generation of

leaders and—in partnership with faculty, students, staff, the board, alumni, and the Naperville community—I am honored, humbled and ready to lead the College in the next phase of its storied history."

Since 2019, Thomas has served as the executive vice president and provost at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minn. As chief academic officer, she provided strategic leadership for the university's academic programs and implemented

the institution's academic master plan, including the planned launch of the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Social Justice.

Thomas was previously the founding dean of the College of Applied Behavioral Sciences at the University of Indianapolis, where she oversaw academic programs in psychology, social work, mental health counseling, and art therapy. Thomas also served for 10 years at Loyola University Chicago,

where she was a faculty member and graduate program director for counseling psychology and later associate dean for academic affairs and research in the School of Education.

A native of Louisville, Ky., Thomas holds a doctorate degree in counseling psychology and a master's degree in community counseling from Loyola University Chicago. Her bachelor's degree in education and social policy is from

Northwestern University.

Thomas is known nationally for her scholarship on racial socialization in African American families, stereotypical roles of African American women and girls, and the development of critical consciousness and resilience. At St. Catherine, she has helped to build an inclusive community of women to learn, lead, and be empowered to work for social justice.



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# More Black Men Are Needed In The Classroom, Diversity Advocates Say

By Nicquel Terry Ellis

CNN

Jamaal Grant was studying biology at Colby College in Maine when a friend asked if he'd be interested in teaching after graduation.

Grant had planned to go to graduate school and build a career in science, but in need of a job, decided to teach science at a charter school in Boston.

Within two years of teaching, he realized he had met his calling. His students, most of them Black and some lacking a father figure at home, were routinely coming to him for advice on family challenges, career and life choices, and even sports talk. They confided in him.

"I felt like I was needed in that space," says Grant, now an 8th-grade science teacher in Boston Public Schools. "I was in there and I was like 'these kids need me.' I felt that every day was worthwhile."

Data shows that Black male teachers like Grant are underrepresented in schools across the country.

Just 1.3% of public school teachers were Black men in the 2020-21 school year, according to the National Teacher and Principal Survey. That school year, White women made up 61% of public school teachers. Black children, meanwhile, accounted for 15% of public school students in the fall of 2020.

Black men are sorely needed in the teaching field, advocates say, as the nation's school systems struggle with unfair disciplinary practices, achievement



Johnathon Hines plays with his pre-K students at Barack H. Obama Elementary School of Technology in Atlanta on March 13, 2023. Austin Steele/CNN

gaps, and political battles over Black history curriculum. Experts say Black male teachers help improve academic outcomes, including graduation rates of Black students.

Making an impact

A new national study published in the peer-reviewed journal Early Education and Development found that children taught by teachers of the same race develop better learning and problem-solving skills by the time they turn seven years old. The impact was felt most in Black and Latino children, the study found.

Black male teachers are role models to young Black students, advocates say.

And a role model is what Johnathon Hines is to his pre-K students at Barack Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology in Atlanta.

Hines, who previously played professional basketball overseas, has taught pre-K for nine years. He said that many of his students who go on to middle and high school often come back to tell him what a difference he has made in their lives.

For some, he's been a father

figure. Hines says that one of his former students even recalls that he once helped them when they lost their first tooth.

In 2019, Hines became the first Black man to be named Georgia's Pre-K Teacher of the Year.

He currently serves as an ambassador for the Literacy Lab's Leading Men Fellowship where he helps the group recruit Black male teachers.

"I want to show other males that it's possible and that you are needed in this space," Hines

(See **BLACK MEN**, P. 4)



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# Business & Finance

## Millennial Money: Is Being A Landlord Worth The Hassle?

Real estate has been a popular investment for a very long time — for those who can afford it. But in recent years, trends such as house flipping, “house hacking” (living in one room of a property while renting out the others) and short-term vacation rentals have made real estate investment much more accessible, especially for millennials seeking a second income stream in an uncertain economy.

Though the potential profit is tempting, being a landlord may not be for everyone. Rental properties involve significant upfront costs, time commitment, legal liabilities and ethical dilemmas that can put a dent in your dividends. So before you take out a loan to buy an investment property in an “up-and-coming neighborhood,” here are three things to consider.

### KNOW WHAT YOU CAN COMMIT TO

There are many ways to oversee rental real estate, from being fully hands-on to hiring someone else to manage a property you’ve never seen in person. When weighing your options, assess the time and money you can commit to a potential rental and the market you want to enter.

If you have more time than money, you might prefer a fixer-upper you can bring up to market value with low-cost do-it-yourself projects. If you have the cash but not the time, it may be better to purchase a place that’s ready to rent and even hire a property manager to handle the day-to-day upkeep. But with rising mortgage interest rates — up to almost 7% as of this writing — and property

prices increasing every year nationwide, investing in real estate may be out of reach for many.

### MAKE SURE YOU CAN WEATHER A FINANCIAL STORM

Most investments come with some risk, but real estate has its own unique hurdles. Upfront and ongoing repairs, vacancies and tenants who don’t pay rent can tank your profits and even affect your ability to pay the property’s mortgage.

Before you get in over your head, ensure you have enough money to get through a downswing. Having a cash reserve or credit line can save you if your property is vacant for a few months or if your tenant has an emergency situation and can’t pay rent.

“If you need full occupancy and full rent to break even, with no flexibility, then your mortgage isn’t sustainable,” says Nancy Neiman, who rents out an in-law suite attached to her garage to help pay her mortgage after refinancing the property in Claremont, California.

Many real estate investors, with large portfolios funded by loans, put themselves and their tenants in difficult situations because of this lack of flexibility. If you’re relying on future profits to provide the cash for your loan payments, your property may be at risk.

“Circumstances happen that are out of your control,” Neiman, a politics professor, says. “You need to build in a cushion to your business plan before you start so those obstacles don’t make you vulner-

### UNDERSTAND THE TENANT PERSPECTIVE

Rental properties are a unique type of investment; you’re interacting with real people. The more you treat them with respect and understanding, the more likely you are to get a reliable return on your investment.

“Look at your tenants as partners,” says Alonzo Johnson, who led a rent strike in 2020 against real estate company Emerald Equity Group as the tenant association president for one of the company’s properties in East Harlem, New York, where Johnson says he still lives. “This is a symbiotic relationship; you provide the housing and maintain a quality of livability, and we pay for that service,” he says.

Investors with large, loan-funded real estate portfolios have historically taken advantage of legal loopholes in housing regulations, exacerbating the affordable housing crisis in major cities. But with growing tenants’ rights protections such as the New York state’s Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (which tightened rules on evictions and rent increases, among other things), keeping rent prices reasonable isn’t just ethical — it’s often legally required.

Even if you plan to operate on a smaller scale, knowing ahead of time what you’d need to charge in rent in order to turn a profit can help ensure that you’re not pricing out locals or negatively affecting housing access in your community.

## Restorative Investing — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aging partner at Kapor Capital, the investment arm of the Kapor Center, “We believe that restorative investing can help close the wealth gap by investing in businesses that are led by underrepresented founders and focused on creating social impact. By investing in these businesses, we can create wealth and opportunities for communities that have been historically left behind.”

The Kapor Center and Kapor Capital have invested in a number of businesses that are focused on creating social impact and addressing the needs of underserved communities. One such business is Mayvonn, a company that provides hair extensions and other beauty products to stylists and salons in underserved communities. Mayvonn allows stylists and salon owners to earn additional income and build wealth by selling high-quality products to their clients.

Another organization that is committed to restorative investing is the Ford Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on social justice and economic opportunity. According to Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation, “Restorative investing is about investing in people and communities that have been left behind by the traditional investment system. It’s about recognizing that these communities have the talent and potential to create economic opportunity and social impact.”

The Ford Foundation has been investing in businesses and organizations that are focused on creating social impact for over fifty years. In 1968, the foundation created the Gray Areas Program, which provided funding and technical assistance to businesses and

organizations in low-income communities. Since then, the foundation has invested over \$1 billion in businesses and organizations that are focused on creating social impact.

One business that has benefited from the Ford Foundation’s investment is Sweetgreen, a fast-casual restaurant chain that focuses on healthy, sustainable food. According to Jonathan Neman, co-founder and CEO of Sweetgreen, “The Ford Foundation was one of our first investors, and their support helped us grow our business and create jobs in underserved communities. We’re committed to using our business as a force for good, and we’re grateful for the support of organizations like the Ford Foundation.”

Restorative investing is not only important for closing the generational wealth gap, but it is also critical for addressing the systemic injustices that have contributed to that gap. According to Dan Schulman, CEO of PayPal, “Restorative investing is about recognizing that economic opportunity address that imbalance.” Schulman believes that restorative investing can play a critical role in creating economic opportunity and promoting social justice. By investing in businesses that prioritize social and environmental impact, investors can help create more equitable economic systems that benefit everyone, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.

Patagonia, a clothing and outdoor gear retailer that is known for its commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship has a founder, Yvon Chouinard, who believes that businesses have a responsibility

to “use their power and influence to solve social and environmental problems.” To that end, Patagonia has invested in several businesses that prioritize sustainability and social impact, including Bureo, a company that makes skateboards from recycled fishing nets, and Yumbutter, a company that produces organic, fair trade nut butter.

A half century after founding the outdoor apparel maker Patagonia, the eccentric rock climbing founder who became a reluctant billionaire with his unconventional spin on capitalism, has given the company away.

Rather than selling the company or taking it public, Mr. Chouinard, his wife and two adult children have transferred their ownership of Patagonia, valued at about \$3 billion, to a specially designed trust and a nonprofit organization. They were created to preserve the company’s independence and ensure that all of its profits — some \$100 million a year — are used to combat climate change and protect undeveloped land around the globe.

A hundred years ago, Black farmers owned more than 16 million acres of land in the U.S.; today, they own less than 5 million acres. Black farmers are also underrepresented: Across the country there are only 36,000 Black farmers remaining. In New York State, where Haughton lives, they number under 200 amidst a total population of 57,000 farmers.

This inequity finds roots in lending and banking discrimination. In 2020, an analysis of USDA data showed that it provided 37 percent of Black farmers with requested loans compared to 71 percent of loans granted to white farmers.

Two Black farmers and activists, Olivia Watkins and Karen Washington, came together at the Black Urban Growers conference, a one-of-a-kind meeting ground for Black farmers. It was here that the idea for Black Farmer Fund (BFF) took root as a first-of-its-kind community-governed investment fund exclusively devoted to Black farmers and food businesses.

“BFF is by us, for us,” says Melanie Allen, BFF’s program director. “Our community-governed model centers those with lived experiences in our decision making, as they intimately understand the issues Black entrepreneurs face. This shifts power and disrupts historically exclusive decision-making spaces and moves capital that is informed by the discrimination that Black folks have faced for generations.”

Restorative investing helps address the generational wealth gap by promoting entrepreneurship and creating economic opportunities in underserved communities. According to Amy Cortese, author of Locavesting: The Revolution in Local Investing and How to Profit From It, “restorative investing is about bringing investment capital to Main Street, rather than Wall Street.”

Restorative investing is summed up best by one considered the pioneer of restorative economics, Nwamaka Agbo who defined it as, “work toward shared prosperity by reinvesting resources in projects owned and governed by communities, where “Black and brown people have the resources, power, and agency to execute their own visions for justice, well-being, and shared prosperity within their communities.”

## Secession Is Here: States, Cities & The Wealthy Are Withdrawing From America

By Michael J. Lee

College of Charleston

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican from Georgia, wants a “national divorce.” In her view, another Civil War is inevitable unless red and blue states form separate countries.

She has plenty of company on the right, where a host of others — 52% of Trump voters, Donald Trump himself and prominent Texas Republicans — have endorsed various forms of secession in recent years. Roughly 40% of Biden voters have fantasized about a national divorce as well. Some on the left urge a domestic breakup so that a new egalitarian nation might be, as Lincoln said at Gettysburg, “brought forth on this continent.”

The American Civil War was a national trauma precipitated by the secession of 11 Southern states over slavery. It is, therefore, understandable that many pundits and commentators would weigh in about the legality, feasibility and wisdom of secession when others clamor for divorce.

But all this secession talk misses a key point that every troubled couple knows. Just as there are ways to withdraw from a marriage before any formal divorce, there are also ways to exit a nation before officially seceding.

I have studied secession for 20 years, and I think that it is not just a “what if?” scenario anymore. In “We Are Not One People: Secession and Separatism in American Politics Since 1776,” my co-author and I go beyond narrow discussions of secession and the Civil War to frame secession as an extreme end point on a scale that includes various acts of exit that have already taken place across the U.S.



out of jury duty, and progresses to include the larger ways that communities refuse to comply with state and federal authorities.

Such refusals could involve legal maneuvers like interposition, in which a community delays or constrains the enforcement of a law it opposes, or nullification, in which a community explicitly declares a law to be null and void within its borders. At the end of the scale, there’s secession.

From this wider perspective, it is clear that many acts of departure — call them secession lite, de facto secession or soft separatism — are occurring right now. Americans have responded to increasing polarization by exploring the gradations between soft separatism and hard secession.

These escalating exits make sense in a polarized nation whose citizens are sorting themselves into like-minded neighborhoods. When compromise is elusive and coexistence is unpleasant, citizens have three options to get their way: Defeat the other side, eliminate the other side or get away from the other side.

Imagine a national law, it could be a mandate that citizens brush their teeth twice a day or a statute

criminalizing texting while driving. Then imagine that a special group of people did not have to obey that law.

This quasi-secession can be achieved in several ways. Maybe this special group moves “off the grid” into the boondocks where they could text and drive without fear of oversight. Maybe this special group wields political power and can buy, bribe or lawyer their way out of any legal jam. Maybe this special group has persuaded a powerful authority, say Congress or the Supreme Court, to grant them unique legal exemptions.

These are hypothetical scenarios, but not imaginary ones. When groups exit public life and its civic duties and burdens, when they live under their own sets of rules, when they do not have to live with fellow citizens they have not chosen or listen to authorities they do not like, they have already seceded.

Schools-to-taxes Present-day America offers numerous hard examples of soft separatism.

Over the past two decades, scores of wealthy white communities have separated from more diverse school districts. Advocates cite local control to justify these

acts of school secession. But the result is the creation of parallel school districts, both relatively homogeneous but vastly different in racial makeup and economic background.

Several prominent district exits have occurred in the South — places like St. George, Louisiana — but instances from northern Maine to Southern California show that school splintering is happening nationwide.

As one reporter wrote, “If you didn’t want to attend school with certain people in your district, you just needed to find a way to put a district line between you and them.”

Many other examples of legalized separatism revolve around taxes. Disney World, for example, was classified as a “special tax district” in Florida in 1967. These special districts are functionally separate local governments and can provide public services and build and maintain their own infrastructure.

The company has saved millions by avoiding typical zoning, permitting and inspection processes for decades, although Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has recently challenged Disney’s special designation. Disney was only one of 1,800 special tax districts in Florida; there are over 35,000 in the nation.

Jeff Bezos paid no federal income taxes in 2011. Elon Musk paid almost none in 2018. Tales of wealthy individuals avoiding taxes are as common as stories of rich Americans buying their way out of jail. “Wealthier Americans,” Robert Reich lamented as far back as the early 1990s, “have been withdrawing into their own neighborhoods and clubs for generations.” Reich worried that a “new secession” allowed the rich to “inhabit a different economy from other Americans.”

## Classifieds

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The City of Raleigh will accept sealed, written proposals for Property Maintenance of City of Raleigh owned vacant properties on April 18, 2023 at 3:00 pm. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 2pm (via Teams). The link is: [https://teams.microsoft.com/j/19%3ameeting\\_MGRhN2izMjgtMzgxZC00ZGM0LTg3ZTlZjM5OTZjOGEM2Zj%40thread.v2?0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f03ae146-d945-4924-95c0-7b661c30ddb%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224a983d4e-8c69-4305-bf2f-bce03569969a%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/j/19%3ameeting_MGRhN2izMjgtMzgxZC00ZGM0LTg3ZTlZjM5OTZjOGEM2Zj%40thread.v2?0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f03ae146-d945-4924-95c0-7b661c30ddb%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224a983d4e-8c69-4305-bf2f-bce03569969a%22%7d). The meeting ID is 262 111 750 777 and the passcode is aZQ4Yy. Information is also posted on the City's Housing and Neighborhood's website. The City of Raleigh reserves the right to reject all proposals.

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**CITY OF RALEIGH HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN DRAFT AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Raleigh was awarded \$5,248,796 in HOME-ARP funding, appropriated under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2020 (ARPA), from the U.S. Department of Housing Development (HUD) to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations. HOME-ARP funds can be used to provide housing, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability.

To access these funds, the City must develop a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for approval by HUD. The Allocation Plan must describe how the City proposes to use the funding to address the needs of qualifying populations. The Allocation Plan will be submitted to HUD as a substantial amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Action Plan for HUD's review and acceptance.

The draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is available by -email, on the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov), and the Community and Small Business Development Division, 421 Fayetteville St. Suite 1200. The 15-day comment period will be held from March 23rd- April 7th. Written comments may be submitted by email to [cd.info@raleighnc.gov](mailto:cd.info@raleighnc.gov).

Accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents will be made available upon request. The City offers interpreter services in other languages, including American Sign Language, at no cost to the speaker. Deaf and hearing-impaired individuals needing interpreter services should provide advance notice by calling 919-996-3100 (voice) or 919-996-3107 (TDD).

For additional information, please email [cd.info@raleighnc.gov](mailto:cd.info@raleighnc.gov) or call 919-996-4330.

# Black Men Are Needed In The Classroom—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

says. "I see every day the impact that I'm making ... just by being there and being present."

Some Black male teachers say their presence in the classroom helps overcome stereotypes children - Black or White - may have of Black men. Some studies have found that Black male teachers are viewed as disciplinarians and are often the ones called on to punish students.

Grant says it is vital for schools to have a diverse array of Black men teaching, including those who are boisterous, reserved, heterosexual and gay.

"Blackness is not a monolith," Grant said. "It's important to

have a variety of people in front of kids just because it expands their view. A lot of times in inner cities, it's easy for their world to become small."

The challenges to recruitment Some non-profit groups say that the biggest challenges to recruiting more Black men to teach are low pay, racial bias in school systems and retention.

Robert Hendricks III, founder of the He Is Me Institute - a Boston-based group that recruits and trains Black men to become teachers - says that in many cases, school systems have not been welcoming to Black men as students or teachers. Research

shows that Black and brown students face harsher discipline than their White classmates. For example, one study has found that Black children are referred to law enforcement and arrested at higher rates than White children for school-related incidents.

Hendricks says that some Black male teachers face these same racial biases, including higher scrutiny from non-Black school officials and the criminalization of their actions.

"The way that teachers and school leaders respond to Black boys is not very different from the way they respond to Black male teachers," Hendricks says.

"The misunderstanding, the misrepresentation, the inability to communicate, all of that is really similar."

Hendricks says he believes more Black men would pursue teaching if school environments were more equitable and provided the support Black men need to succeed as students and professionals. The pay is also a concern for some, he says. The average salary for a public school teacher nationally is about \$65,000.

"We are telling men unfairly that they are supposed to be the breadwinner," Hendricks says. "But then a profession like teaching doesn't give them the oppor-

tunity to financially provide for their families."

Sharif El-Mekki, founder and chief executive officer of the Center for Black Educator Development, says in order to create a pipeline of Black male teachers, recruitment and clinical experience must start at an earlier age.

El-Mekki's organization provides year-round mentorship, professional development, and teaching experience for Black high school and college students interested in teaching careers.

He also says many Black male students are not being encouraged by their school leaders to

pursue teaching. So when education groups try to recruit them after college, many aren't interested in the field.

"Black boys ... they often receive messages that you don't belong, you're a criminal you're unintelligent, you're a problem here," El-Mekki says. "They are actually being devalued in the education system, so how would they imagine being teachers?"

For those Black men who do become teachers, El-Mekki says he wants to see schools doing more to retain them.

Consider, "how are you supporting them and how would they say they are being supported?"

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LAW OFFICES OF ABE JONES

# Health & Wellness

## ‘It’s Hard To Focus’: Schools Say American Kids Are Hungry

(AP)—America’s schools say kids are hungry — just as COVID-19 benefit programs have lapsed. There is growing concern about the effects on kids’ ability to learn.

Congress temporarily made school meals free to all American schoolkids but since that ended last fall, the need has only seemed to grow.

Soaring food prices are adding strains on families who are seeing reductions in multiple kinds of financial assistance. One federal program that ends this month gave nearly 30 million Americans extra food stamps during the pandemic.

School cafeterias typically don’t turn away a hungry kid, but debts for unpaid school meals have risen — showing the level of need and raising questions about how schools will keep feeding everyone without federal money to do it. The neediest kids are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, as before the pandemic, but qualifying for those benefits requires applications that haven’t been necessary for several years.

“Programs that provide direct food assistance are hugely critical and we are going to see the effects of not having them over the next couple of months,” said Megan Curran, policy director for Columbia University’s Center on Poverty and Social Policy.

In the last academic year, with nearly all schools back to operating in person, the number of school meals served to students

jumped dramatically and was slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels, according to a report Thursday from the Food Research & Action Center. Already, it said, states are reporting drops in the number of meals served.

More than 34 million people, including 9 million children, in the United States are food insecure, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for every person in their family to be healthy.

Children in such households are more likely to struggle academically and repeat grade levels, among other challenges, according to researchers.

For fourth grader Fabian Aguirre, it’s hard to think about math equations with a growling stomach.

When he arrives in the morning, Fabian eats breakfast served by the school in South Phoenix, but he can get hungry in the classes before lunch. On days he doesn’t eat at home first, even the meals offered by the school aren’t enough to keep him feeling full.

“It’s hard to focus in class when I’m hungry,” the 10-year-old said. “Food helps me pay attention to what I’m learning.”

At his school, V. H. Lassen Academy of Science and Nutrition, all students are eligible to receive free meals. The Roosevelt School District, where 80% of students are Hispanic and 12% are Black, covers the meals with aid from a federal program



for low-income school communities.

To reach students who might be embarrassed about not having eaten at home, the school recently changed how it distributes free breakfast. Carts filled with prepackaged breakfast meals are rolled outside by the entrance to the school, instead of being kept in the cafeteria.

“We realized that a lot of our

students were going straight to the playground and not going into the cafeteria to eat before school, from the 7 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. timeframe,” said Jessica Padilla, a sixth grade math and science teacher.

While they lasted, the universal free meals addressed several concerns about student hunger. There was no paperwork involved. And kids who needed

them didn’t have to worry about stigma because they were available to everyone. Some states including California are using state money to continue these programs, but most have gone back to charging all but the neediest kids for meals.

When the free meals for all came to an end, “families were left scrambling and confused,” National PTA President Anna King said. They weren’t prepared for the paperwork after two years without it — and many families with young kids had never filled out the forms.

It can be difficult for parents to ask for the help they need, said Jillien Meier, director of No Kid Hungry. Immigrant parents, she said, might avoid filling out forms requesting free or reduced-price meals out of concern it could bring unwanted attention if they are in the U.S. illegally.

Teachers often are the ones to pick up on chronic hunger in students.

Martissa Moore, a teacher at Bainbridge Middle School

in Bainbridge, Georgia, recalls a seventh grader who had his head on his desk during class, picked arguments with other students and struggled to keep up academically. Moore sensed he wasn’t getting enough to eat.

Each day that year, she brought him whatever her daughter had for breakfast and slowly saw progress in his reading skills.

“You just do what you have to do for your students because you don’t want them hungry,” Moore said.

Hilary Seligman, senior medical adviser with Feeding America, said it shouldn’t be up to teachers to address child hunger.

“Because we have so much food insecurity among children, we shift that responsibility to the schools,” she said. “But normal childhood development is having access to food at home. That is part of creating for families in America a stable environment where kids are ready to learn when they arrive in school.”

## American Medical Journal Omitting Black Research



THE CONVERSATION—The leading U.S. medical journal, read regularly by doctors of all specialties, systematically ignores an equally reputable and rigorous body of medical research that focuses on Black Americans’ health.

The American Medical Association created a segregated “whites only” environment more than 100 years ago to prohibit Black physicians from joining their ranks. This exclusionary and racist policy prompted the creation in 1895 of the National Medical Association, a professional membership group that supported African American physicians and the patients they served. Today, the NMA represents more than 30,000 medical professionals.

In 2008, the AMA publicly apologized and pledged to right the wrongs that were done through decades of racism within its organization. Yet our research shows that despite that public reckoning 15 years ago, the opinion column of the AMA’s leading medical journal does not reflect the research and editorial contributions by NMA members.

Invisibility in the opinion column of one of the most prominent medical journals in the U.S. is another form of subtle racism that continues to lessen the importance of equitable medical care and health issues for Black and underserved communities.

As rhetoricians and researchers who study scientific communication, we look at the ways scientific writing perpetuates or addresses racial inequity. Our recent study traced how research is referenced by medical professionals and colleagues, known as citations, of flagship journals of the NMA and AMA: the Journal of the National American Association and the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Invisible research

Our research began with a question: Has the AMA’s 2008 apology had any effect on the frequency with which JAMA opinion writers draw on insights and research of JNMA scholars and authors?

We studied opinion columns, also referred to as editorials, precisely because they are useful indicators of current and future research as well as priorities and agendas. The purpose of editorials is to critically analyze and sift through various opinions and evidence. Effective editorials in scientific journals are especially rich forums for debate within the medical community.

Medical publications like JNMA and JAMA do not simply convey knowledge. They also establish professional community values through the topics that are studied and who is credited for ideas related to research. When writers choose to reference or cite another scholar, they are acknowledging and highlighting that expertise.

As such, citations play an important role in the visibility of research. Articles and authors with more citations are more likely to have a greater effect on the scientific community and patient care. Opinion pieces can shape the broader conversation among medical professionals, and citations can widen that circle of communication.

Invisible racism

We traced how frequently JAMA and JNMA opinion writers referenced one another from 2008 to 2021 by reviewing the 117 opinion pieces published in JNMA and 1,425 published in JAMA during this 13-year period. We found that JAMA opinion columns have continued to, in effect, uphold racial bias and segregation by ignoring JNMA findings.

Even when focusing on race, racism and health disparities, topics that JNMA has explored in great detail, JAMA opinion columns did not reference JNMA colleagues or research. Only two JNMA articles were credited and referenced in the 1,425 JAMA opinion pieces that we reviewed.

Editors at JAMA did not respond to our requests for their comments on our analysis.

Racial equity in medicine

The story of the AMA and NMA is not only a reminder of the racist history of medicine. It demonstrates how the expertise of Black professionals and researchers continues to be ignored today. The lack of JNMA citations in JAMA research undercuts the AMA’s own work on racial equity and potentially compromises the quality of medical knowledge published in its journals.

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# Ag-Grow-Culture

## The Long Term Benefits Of Planting For The Environment

By Jason Lindsay

Staff Writer

Planting flowers or herbs is a notion that comes with side connotations like grandma or hippie. Some even see planting trees in the same light, referencing them as tree huggers. Yet, planting flowers, herbs, and trees literally heals the planet, making our ecosystems better for us and all beneficial life around us.

CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) admissions are one of the leading causes of natural disasters across the planet. Carbon sequestering must now become a priority to stabilize our environment. With the same momentum, soil depletion is at a high never recorded before in human history, but many can't see how high CO<sub>2</sub> levels and soil depletion is related.

Truth be told. It is not our environment having too much CO<sub>2</sub> that makes it a global issue, yet the CO<sub>2</sub> is in the wrong place. Where there is too much CO<sub>2</sub> in the air, the ground needs it and holds the capacity to store it for long periods. The only way to balance the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air and soil is to sequester it through plant life.

Plants breathe in CO<sub>2</sub>, hold the C (carbon), some in their body, and the remains are relieved in the soil primarily as sugars but sometimes as carbohydrates and proteins. These released sugars become the food for the bacteria and fungi in the soil, which are the beginning of the food chain. After the bacteria and fungi collect in the rhizosphere (the region in the soil in which the roots of a plant influence the chemistry and microbiology of the soil), larger micro-organisms are attracted and feed on the tiny organisms releasing soluble nu-



trients to the plant.

So think about this in a world of increased food prices and threats of food shortages: the beginning of the food chain is bacteria and fungi found in soil whose food source is sugars, proteins, carbohydrates, and organic matter (the remains of plants and animals which are all C-based). With loads of the needed carbon to aid a healthy soil floating in the air, we must remedy this issue by transforming the wealth of carbon (C) from our atmosphere to our soils, and again, only plant life can naturally complete this mission.

When it comes to carbon sequestering, all plants are not created equal. Understandably, a tree sequesters more carbon

than a small plant. The oak trees sequester more carbon than any native vegetation in North America. One mature red oak tree sequesters over 15,000 lbs. of carbon in its lifetime. On average, a mature (50 years old or older) oak forest consumes 30,000 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per acre. It would take more than 48,000 small trees, at least three years old, to meet the equivalence of one mature oak. A front or back yard oak tree also has a reputation for lowering energy bills with the massive shade it casts.

Though on top for native N. America's greater carbon sequesters, oaks, are not alone. Also noted for high levels of carbon sequestering are black walnut trees, Horse chestnut trees,

and the American sweet gum tree.

The sweetgum tree should be called the "anti" tree because its healing properties are antibacterial, anticonvulsant, antihepatotoxic, antiviral, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, and anti-ulcerogenic, and the sweet tree is an indigenous wound healer.

Black walnut trees are renowned for their carbon-sequestering abilities and their health benefits. Black walnuts pack boosted amounts of vitamin A, minerals, fibers, and iron. Like the sweetgum tree, black walnut also serves as an antioxidant but also provides necessary unsaturated fats and other compounds that diminish our risk of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

The horse chestnut is deadly poisonous if consumed raw, yet when properly prepared, it is a natural blood thinner. The extract from the seed is taken orally to assist with poor blood circulation. Horse chestnut reduces the appearance of varicose veins and relieves pain and fatigue.

Trees are the masters of carbon sequestration, yet sequestering carbon isn't the only thing need to balance our environment. Three-fourths of flowering plants, including produce, depend on pollinators to survive. The insect world is of utmost importance when it comes to our food supply and the ability to enjoy outside truly.

When ecosystems are out of balance, harmful pests are warranted. The first farm I lived and trained on, I had to rid the farm of all the bats that were nesting in an old chimney. By doing this, the population of mosquitos dramatically increases, making them a nuisance that didn't before exist. With the bats housing

nearby, the pesty mosquitoes were a large part of their diet, yet with them gone, the mosquito population, which was bordering a swamp, had no competition.

We have a direct impact on our surrounding environment, and with proper education and good intentions, we can change it in our favor, and planting pollinators is a part of it.

One pollinator that is extreme in its contribution to our environment is "milkweed." Milkweed entices a variety of insects and pollinators, including bees, wasps, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Female monarchs exclusively lay their eggs on milkweed, and without it, monarch butterflies would soon disappear. The same sap the milkweed plant uses to attract insects and pollinators was used by indigenous people to remove warts. The tree was also used to reduce inflammation, treat rashes, and relieve coughs, fevers, and asthma. The roots were even chewed to treat dysentery.

Milkweed also attracts small birds like the chickadee, which uses the fluff from inside the pods to insulate their nest over winter. During the 1940s through the late 70s, this same fluff was used for stuffing pillows, blankets, and mattresses.

Other birds like the American sparrow and juncos, also known as "songbirds" or "winter birds," visit the plant during the fall and winter to eat the seeds that haven't fallen from the seed heads.

Hummingbirds are also attracted to milkweed's nectar. The benefit of hosting visitors like small birds in your garden or farm is that they eat ants, aphids, fruit flies, gnats, weevils, beetles, mites, and mosquitos. Birds like hummingbirds would also raid the web of settled spiders, eating bugs that are caught-up and dismantling the web in the process.

Another massive pollinator is borage. The beautiful aspect about borage is that it matches well with other crops. If you grow borage with tomatoes, they release Ca (calcium) and K (potassium) into the soil, boosting the immune system of the plant and preventing diseases like

blossom rot which also makes it suitable to plant with squash. Borage is also the plant in which lacewing flies (beneficial insects) lay their eggs. The smell from the eggs is a natural repel for the tomato hornworm. Borage also serves as an insect repellent for strawberries and a nuisance for the cabbage worms, making them great companions for cabbage as well while simultaneously attracting pollinators.

Borage is such a good pollinator attractor that it is referenced as the "bee bush." Before chemical agriculture, it was celebrated that beekeepers would grow fields of borage to ensure increased honey yields. It has been recorded that borage fields yield 200 pounds of honey per acre and 60 to 160 pounds of pollen. The average crop yield well under 100 pounds of honey per acre.

The benefits of borage don't stop there. Borage is highly medicinal, with leaves and star-shaped flowers that are used for coughs, fevers, hormone balancing, and depression. Borage purifies the blood, increases urine flow, and prevents inflammation, particularly in the lungs.

When the leaves are young, they taste like cucumber, and so do the flowers. Both are commonly added to salads, made into teas, and used in soups and stews as a thickener.

Every day we influence our environment. Everything that happens around us directly affects us. Our ecosystems are unbalanced, and as a result, the world is sick, and the weather is inconsistent, outside is becoming more and more unsafe. Yet there is much we can do about it.

Planting trees is one of the most significant investments we can make for our future. Learning plants like milkweed and borage and incorporating them into our growing systems could very well be the differentiating factor between a colossal yield from our crop or a failed crop. Everything that benefits the environment is essentially our medicine. What the earth needs to heal and what we, the people, need to heal are the same for very different reasons. So, plant something, and let us all heal together.

## The Shot Heard 'Round The Community

Back in 2011, there was an incident in an East Durham neighborhood that was ultimately the springboard for that community's healing.

More than ten years ago, two young people were shot in an altercation, and the community decided at that point that enough was enough! As a way to get back to the "village" mentality, some East Durham residents started doing Pot Luck dinners to get to know each other better and to begin to address some of the issues in the neighborhood. These pot luck dinners were held monthly and went on for years.

From these community gatherings, they realized that there

were quite a few issues that needed to be addressed in the community as a whole, and that one major issue was hunger.

Communities In Partnership was born.

In speaking with Tim Leggette at a food box giveaway, he mentioned that their Executive Director, Camryn Smith, wanted to not only feed people, but to find out why they are hungry in the first place.

"Food, in my opinion, makes people desperate. You have to eat. And, some of the options that we have been given in certain areas are very limited," Leggette stated.

Communities in Partnership

is not just a name, it is a practice. The organization recently opened a market in East Durham that provides healthy foods directly from local BIPOC farmers in the area. These farms are mostly microfarms, which means that they do not qualify for many of the agriculture grants that are available. For this reason, Communities in Partnership makes sure that the farms have an outlet, somewhere they can sell their product.

The organization works with food banks as well to insure that those in the neighborhood get a variety of foods in their box.

The co-op is once a month, but they do emergency food 24/7.

Their passion extends beyond just feeding their community, and that sentiment is evident in speaking with CEO Camryn Smith.

"We are a community-rooted organization, which a term we actually coined for ourselves. Communities in Partnership was founded by people that live in predominately Black East Durham, and we are governed by ourselves," Smith exclaims.

"We first got together because there was a shooting in 2011. One of the large scale CBOs had a press conference with the police, and what they said was for us to board up our windows, board up our front door, do not stand outside and talk to your neighbors and don't let your kids play outside. I thought, 'that's not going to work for us.'"

After years of pot luck dinners and meetings, the group decided to organize under a 501c3.

Today they source eggs and honey from a local Black farmer. They get their produce from a variety of BIPOC farmers in the area as well. With the store in operation, housing needs continue to be addressed and the continued support that Communities in Partners gives to East Durham, Camryn Smith and her team are showing others how a few Black voices with a common message can make a major impact!



## New USDA Grants

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Department received \$3 billion in applications from more than 350 independent businesses from 47 states and 2 territories for the first two rounds of a new grant program to add innovative domestic fertilizer production capacity.

USDA also announced the first \$29 million in grant offers under the first round that focused on projects that can come online in the near term. The grants will help independent businesses increase production of American-made fertilizer, which will spur competition, give U.S. farmers more choices and fairer prices and reduce dependence on unreliable foreign sources like Russia and Belarus. Vilsack made the announcement at the 2023 Commodity Classic, the same event where he first unveiled the program a year earlier.

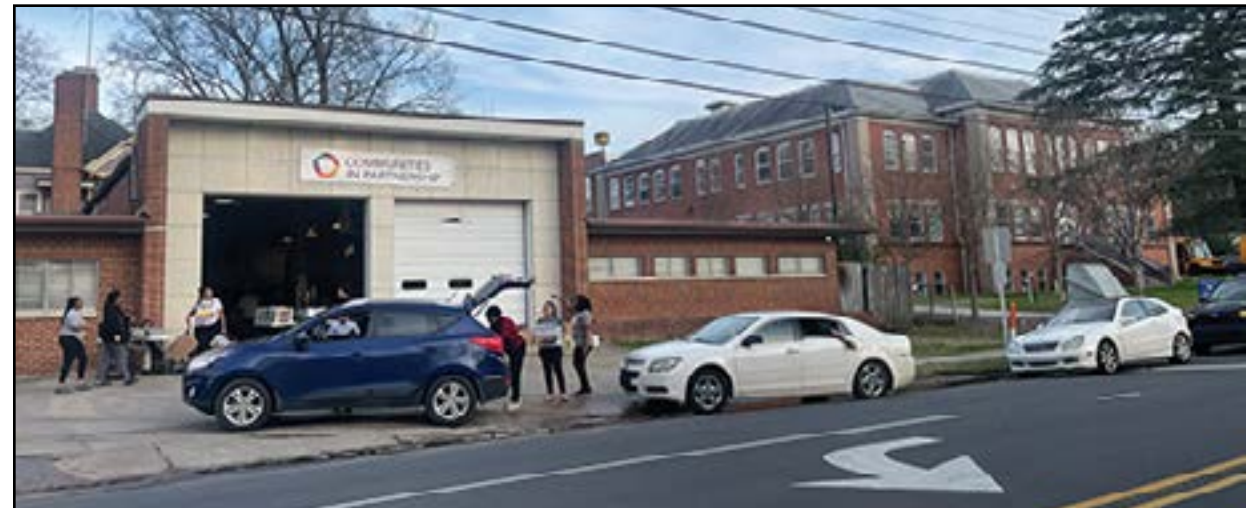
"I know that increased costs for fertilizer and other inputs have put a strain on farmers and cut into the bottom line. The Biden-Harris Administration and USDA understand the importance of taking on the root causes and need to invest in the agricultural supply chain here at home to create a resilient, secure and sustainable economy for the long haul," Vilsack said. "By expanding the production of domestic fertilizer supplies, we can grow independent local businesses, bring production and jobs to rural communities and support fair prices for our farmers."

The Biden-Harris Administration's Fertilizer Production Expansion Program is part of a government-wide effort to promote competition in agricultural markets. The program supports fertilizer production that is independent, made-in-America, innovative, sustainable and farmer-focused.

Strong Demand  
Vilsack made the initial announcement to dedicate \$250 million at the 2022 Commodity Classic, the same event where he is making the first awards a year later. From the start, it has been clear there is strong demand for the program and even before applications were being taken, President Biden directed USDA to increase the program to \$500 million at a farm visit in Illinois in May 2022. This fall, demand for the program was immediately evident by the sheer number, range and diversity of applications. More than 350 applications came in from applicants of every size and business model, including cooperatives, Tribal communities, female-owned companies and public bodies. These applicants requested between \$1 million and \$100 million for projects across 47 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

In all, \$3 billion in funding was requested for projects that could increase production immediately for Crop Years 2023 and 2024, as well as bolster long-term availability of U.S.-produced fertilizer. Projects were proposed for both fertilizers and nutrient alternatives, and represented different technologies, including composters, complex manufacturing, farm supply blenders and distributors.

In addition to increasing the supply of domestic fertilizer, the projects propose the creation or saving of hundreds of jobs, often in regions where they are most needed, including energy communities and those experiencing generational poverty. Additional details on the second round of applications will be released in the coming weeks as the reviews are completed.



## NCDA To Showcase Agriculture And Bioenergy Research, Economic Potential

RALEIGH – Two programs of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will host a day-long series of information sessions on April 13 to highlight recent investments in agricultural research.

Researchers will discuss some of the projects that have received grant money through the Bioenergy Research Initiative and the New and Emerging Crops Program. They will also share potential economic possibilities.

Funding for the grants is allocated by the N.C. General Assembly each year, and both programs award that money to research projects aimed at exploring and expanding possibilities for the state's farmers and agribusinesses. The Bioenergy Research Initiative focuses on developing energy production from the state's agricultural and forest-based products, while the New and Emerging Crops Program focuses on identifying potential new crops, value-added products and agricultural enterprises and making them commercially viable and profitable for the state's growers and agribusinesses.

The schedule includes the following sessions:

Rice for N.C. Farmers – Could there be a renaissance in growing rice in North Carolina? Researchers have been exploring the possibilities and hope to develop new guidance. [afternoon session]

Fiber Hemp – A panel discussion about fiber hemp will cover a broad range of research topics from agricultural production to agribusiness development and use as biofuel. [afternoon session]

Lemnaceae-Based Biogas and High-purity Bio-hydrogen – Researchers have studied the possibility of growing Lemnaceae, commonly called duckweed, in swine lagoon water and producing biogas from that growth. Also, one study is looking at the potential to use leftover plant material (e.g., hemp or corn biomass) to produce hydrogen fuel more economically and sustainably. [morning session]

Sycamore Research and interested industry partners – Growing sycamore trees to harvest as a crop may sound like an unusual idea, but one research project has revealed financial potential

for farmers and interest from wood pellet production companies. [morning session]

Growing sesame in N.C. – Researchers have been working on the feasibility of growing sesame across the state's regions, and the results have been promising. Research has expanded as interest grows from farmers, seed companies and processors. The research has led to commercial sesame acreage for 2023. [afternoon session]

The programs last hosted a research and industry meeting in 2019. There have been several exciting new findings since then, and updates would be of interest



to anyone in related academic or industry fields, as well as anyone with interest in the agricultural and economic future of North Carolina.

This year's event will be at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center in Raleigh from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13. Lunch will be served for registered guests. Registration and the agenda are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bioenergy-research-initiative-new-and-emerging-crops-researchindustry-mtg-tickets-541778162067> or by contacting Allison Medlin via email at [allison.medlin@ncagr.gov](mailto:allison.medlin@ncagr.gov).

# Community

## NC Lead The Nation In Rosenwald Schools



**MEMORY LANE**—Attendees of the Juniper Level Rosenwald School event on Saturday went back in time while visiting the archive room. Some recalled their own personal experiences at a Rosenwald school in their youth.

Rosenwald schools were schools that were built between 1912 and 1932 by African American communities that received technical and financial assistance from Julius Rosenwald (mostly via the Rosenwald Fund), whose contribution in turn leveraged support from local school boards. They constitute the most numerous and easily recognizable type of school built by African American communities during the segregation era.

The Rosenwald school building effort, structured as a matching grant program, began with a \$25,000 gift Julius Rosenwald made in 1912 to Tuskegee in support of teacher training. At the behest of Booker T. Washington and Clinton J. Calloway, Rosenwald allowed \$2800 of that money to be used in a pilot program to help communities build small rural schools.

From 1912, when the first six Rosenwald schools were built in Alabama, to 1932, when the Rosenwald Fund ceased funding schools, the program helped to construct over 5,000 buildings for education across the South: 4,977 schools, 163 shops, and 217 boarding houses for teachers (Hoffschwelle, 2006). North Carolina's African American communities helped to build 813 Rosenwald Schools, more than any other state.

On Saturday, Mrs. Ella Perry hosted an event at Juniper Level Rosenwald School to educate the community about the Rosenwald schools and their impact on communities in North Carolina.

"This building was constructed in 1925. It opened its doors to be used in 1926. It was constructed without lights, heat or any water. The timer that was used in this building came from the farm of Mr. Andrew Adams.

The farmers in the community used their own nails and hammers to construct this building," Mrs. Perry explained.

"Rosenwald gave less than \$300 to this building. After it was constructed, it was equipped with used chairs and desks from a building that stored used furniture that came from the white schools."

Perry recalled that in the winter time, the first children that arrived at the school would make a fire in the pot belly stove. These were usually the older boys in the school. They were also responsible for getting the water from the church well across the way.

The school children brought their Mason jars from home so that they could be served water at recess.

Of course there was not indoor plumbing so they had to use the outhouses in the woods.

There was no transportation to this school. Children walked as much as 5 miles one way to get to the school. These were both small and large children.

The children took care of the school building. They swept the floors, cleaned the erasers and did whatever needed to be done to keep the grounds clean.

In the Fall, the children had a half-day of school to help gather the crops at home. This meant that they only had about 6 months of schooling during the year.

The books that were used at the Juniper Level Rosenwald School were used books that came from white schools. Many of the books were torn. The pages were torn on many of them and some had no cover. At the end of the year, children often had to pay a damage fee for a book that was already damaged

and rebuilding their homes." Since opening the application period in June 2020, the Homeowner Recovery Program has worked to repair, rebuild and elevate homes damaged by hurricanes Matthew and Florence. To date, the program has completed homes for 1,048 families in communities located throughout eastern North Carolina.

Following the application period closeout, ReBuild NC will continue to complete ongoing projects and help Homeowner Recovery Program participants return home as quickly as possible. The closeout will not impact current awards and projects, case management or customer service. Current program participants with questions about the application closeout should contact their assigned case manager or call 833-ASK-RBNC (833-275-7262) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



**Family Connection**—Mrs. Ella Perry points to her brother Tom Wilder, who attended the Rosenwald School located at 9109 Sauls Rd. in Raleigh.

when they got it. There was no new equipment furnished to these schools.

In 1956 the Juniper Level Rosenwald School closed its door. The remaining children went to Garner Consolidated school. After the school closed, Juniper Level church used the building for activities. This is the reason this particular Rosenwald School is still standing in good condition. Many across the state are not.

During the event a documentary was shown. The title of the film was *Unlocking The Doors Of Opportunity*. This was a great history lesson on early education for African Americans here in North Carolina.

The documentary exposed the gross oppression of education for African Americans to a new generation. One of the points that really hit home was the contribution of the local community.

Much praise is given to Julius Rosenwald for building schools throughout the south, and he definitely deserves his flowers, but not the entire garden.

Rosenwald set up a system

that was essentially a matching grant for these schools. But his contribution was a nominal part of the funding puzzle.

The African Americans in the community themselves were the ones that mostly funded these schools.

Along with the grit and determination of the Black community was a white school superintendent named N. C. Newbold. His passion for education and his faith in God drove him to relentlessly pursue education for the Black population in North Carolina.

Newbold was not an advocate for integration, but he did believe in education for all.

The impact of Rosenwald schools on southern Blacks is immeasurable. Had it not been for the friendship of Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, education of all minorities in the South may have been delayed for decades.



## Leading By Example

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

At the young age of 25, North Carolina A&T alumni Kenneth Gorham has made history at Movement Middle School as the youngest Black principal in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system. Gorham took over Movement Middle as principal for the 2022-2023 school year and as the youngest, he continues to break the mold of what many think a principal should look like.

Growing up, he was raised mostly by his mother, who relentlessly promoted academic excellence and achievement in all areas of his life. When she passed away, he lived in various group homes until graduating high school. As he was preparing to graduate college, he received 4 corporate job offers, but another organization caught his eye. The Teach For America organization sparked his interest immediately due to his love for teaching children. He joined the organization, and his first year of teaching began at Movement Freedom Elementary School.

Superintendent Jenika Mullen of Movement schools shared with us her thoughts on Gorham's role. "When we think about hiring, it is really about your leadership competencies. Are you someone that people will want to follow and be inspired by? The answer is yes [for] Mr. Gorham."

Mullen also shared that since the very first day that he became principal, he makes efforts to support students in their goals. The students, as well as their parents, admire him for that. Every morning, he gives every student a hug as they walk-through the school doors.

He absolutely believes that being a principal is making a difference and setting a precedent for other young professionals. He stands firm on his belief that every scholar, family, and stakeholder that walks through Movement middle school feels an unexplainable sense of love and value that is needed.

"Thinking about my scholars specifically, I pride myself in being on the grounds with them. I specifically carve out times outside of the instructional coaching and principal responsibilities I have to just spend time with them; Getting to know them beyond the surface, learning what they like or dislike and even just creating a space for them to see me as a person rather than just their principal." said Gorham

In addition, Gorham shared that the morale from faculty, parents, and some students was quite energizing. He has encountered pure joy and excitement for the achievements and the positive opportunities to lead a movement of change. Outside of the school, he has also received some questions on legitimacy. He's experienced a lot of questions such as "Is this a legit middle school?" "This must be a behavior school, and What are your credentials?" Granted this side of his new role, in the beginning, wasn't the most desirable, but Gorham did not let those sentiments hinder him.

"Receiving those comments, good and bad, when students look at me, I want them to see the faith in God, resilience, and my undeniable faith. I want them to see that in no way did I ever allow my age to be the factor that stopped me from pursuing greatness. I hope to show that with faith in God, doing the work, and continued resilience, you can achieve all you want in this life."

In regards to being a Black leader, he will continue to make sure that students feel empowered and not allow the color of their skin to make them feel inferior or unable to serve in certain spaces. He will also continue to make sure his scholars allow the color of their skin, along with their societal and cultural awareness to be a motivating factor for them to go after every dream and desire.

"I hope to show them that as time continues to progress, we cannot continue to exist with the oppressive mindset that our community only has certain rights to societal opportunities."

His plans going forward for this year includes launching a sports program and afterschool enrichment programs. By implementing those extracurricular activities, he believes that the administration we'll see an influx in scholars who are well-versed as they prepare to embark on the world's opportunities.

"To continue to promote growth in our school, I plan to continue to emphasize achievement and character development for our scholars, but also encourage our family and community partnerships to continue this heartwork with us.

## Application Period For The ReBuild NC Closing April 21

RALEIGH, N.C. - The application period for the ReBuild NC Homeowner Recovery Program will close at 5 p.m. Friday, April 21, with available federal funding committed to applications currently in process and those expected in the weeks ahead. This is the last opportunity for eligible North Carolinians who have not yet submitted an application to apply for aid through the state's HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding for Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence.

"ReBuild NC remains focused on supporting families impacted by Matthew and Florence and getting them back home as soon as possible," said Director Laura Hogshead of the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency. "Homeowners who experienced damage from these storms can still apply for help with repairing

Homeowners impacted by either Hurricane Matthew or Hurricane Florence must apply for assistance by the April 21 deadline. The fastest way to apply is through the program's online application. Homeowners may also call 833-ASK-RBNC (833-275-7262) to schedule an appointment at the nearest regional ReBuild NC Center. Visit the ReBuild NC website for more information about center locations and hours of operation.

The Homeowner Recovery Program is administered by the N.C. Department of Public Safety's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR). In addition to homeowner recovery, NCORR administers programs that include strategic buyout, mitigation, resiliency, community development and affordable housing. Learn more about NCORR programs at: <https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/>.



"Wendell Top Ladies & Top Teens attended & participated in the 41AreaIVLeadership Conference March 16-19, 2023 in Orlando, Florida. The Theme of the Conference was "Moving forward, making a difference, honoring our legacy, & shaping the future in TLOD & TTA. Congratulations to Our Wendell Chapter's TTA Program of Works Scrapbook for being awarded 2nd place @ The Conference & to Teen Miranda for placing 3rd place in the Essay Contest. Teen Neville also received certificate & book for his participation in the AreaIV book club. We also have several of Wendell Top Ladies listed as "Orchid-sponsoring" patrons. The Top Teens were rewarded for their hard work with a day at SeaWorld. Our AreaIV is now the TLOD #1 Area, which includes the 7 Southern States of NC, SC, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, & Mississippi. Top ladies of Distinction, Inc (TLOD) is a National nonprofit humanitarian service organization with Top Teens of America(TTA)as it's #1 Thrust."

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the errors in the article below. Then, rewrite it correctly.

### The Bunny Buddies are Back!

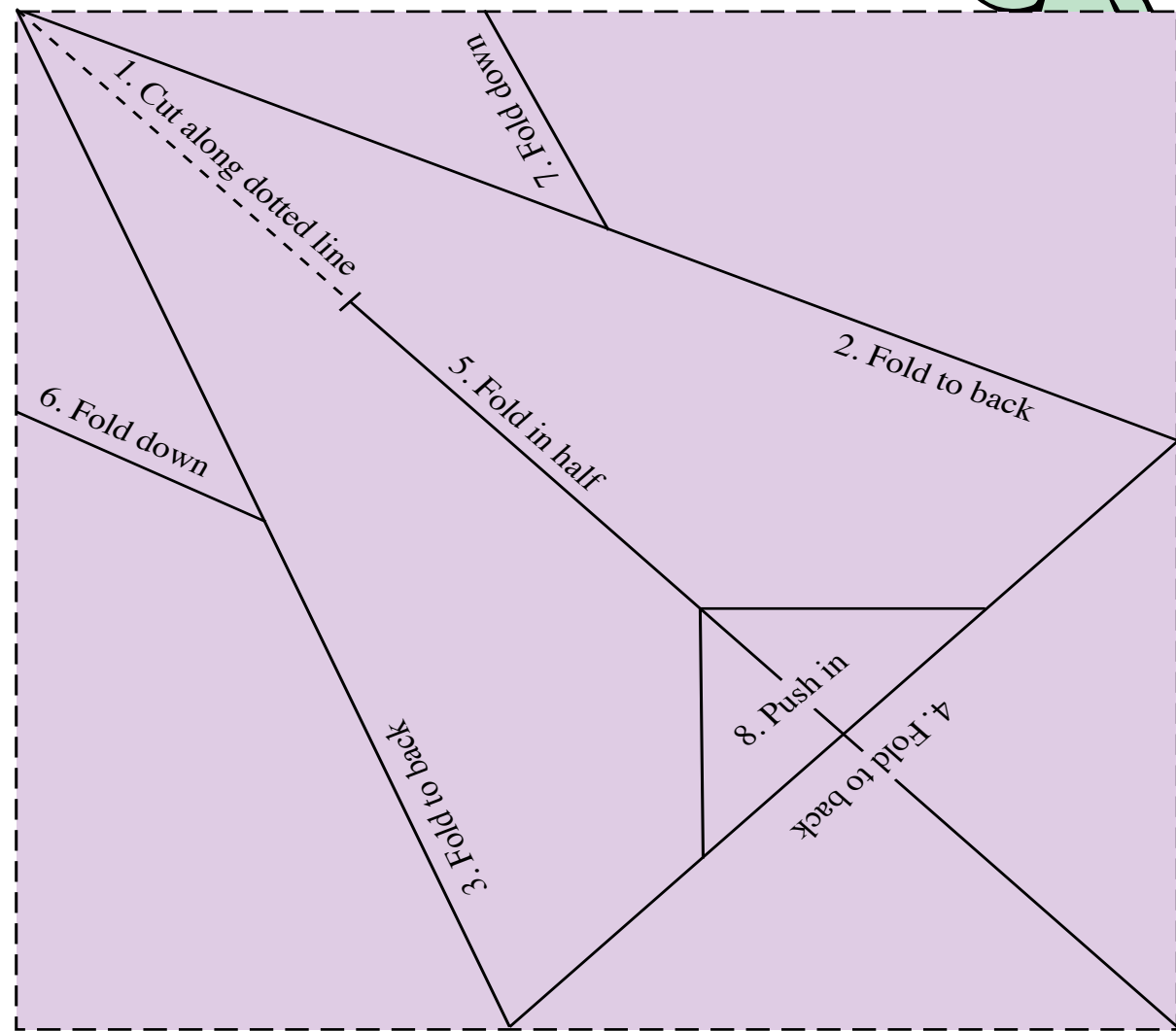
# TWO are More Fun Than ONE!

## Make an Origami Bunny

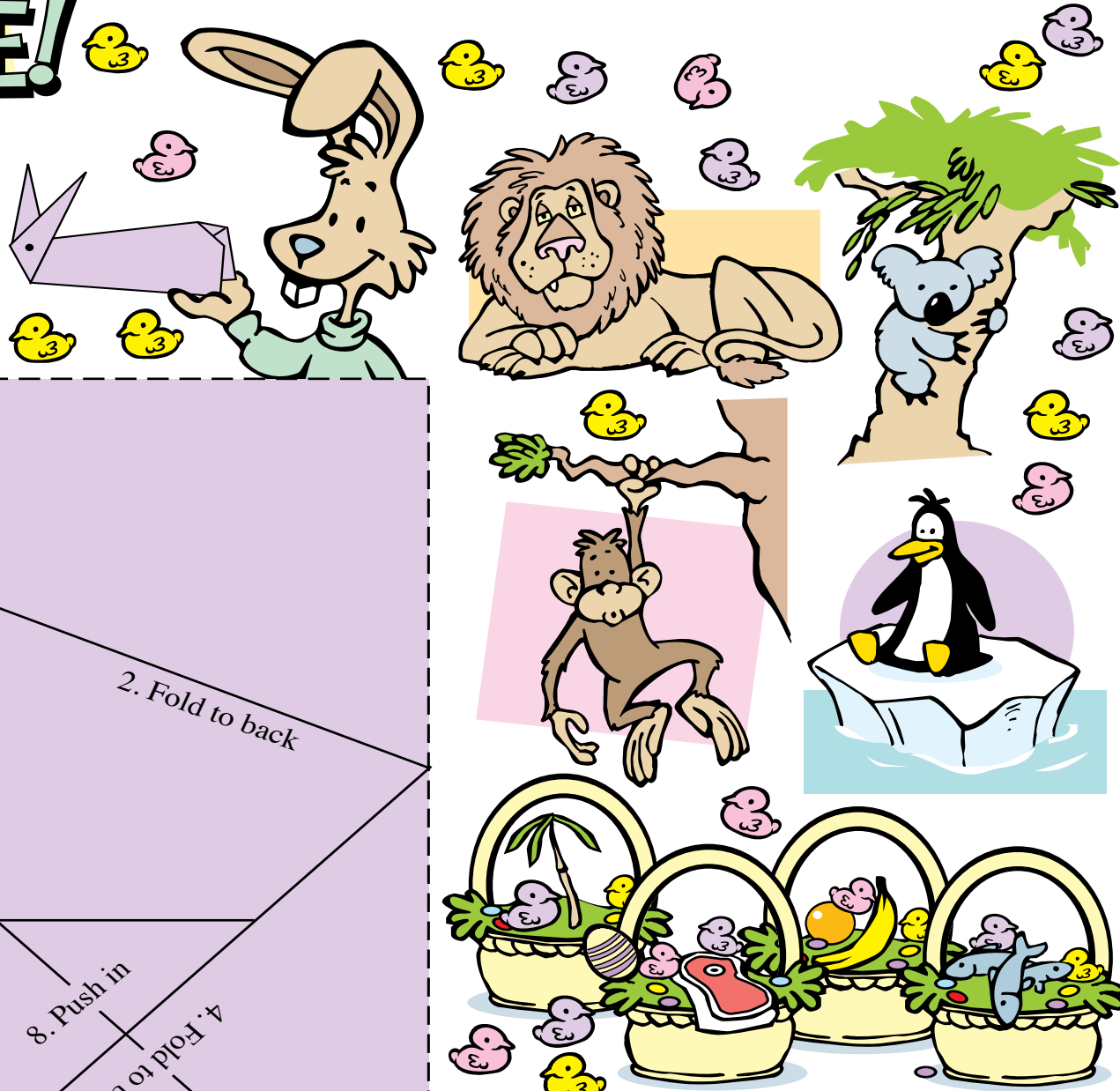
In Japan, folding paper into animals, plants, and objects is an art called **origami**. Try the art of paper folding. Cut out the square, then follow the directions, starting with step 1, to make the origami bunny.

Buzz and Beeper Bunny are back with all kinds of Easter fun.

If the activities on this page seem hard, find some bunny to help you. If it looks easy, help some bunny younger than you!



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple step written directions.



### Special Delivery

Help Buzz and Beeper deliver the baskets. There's a basket for each of the animals in the zoo. Draw a line from each animal to its basket.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple step written directions.

### Silly Scramble

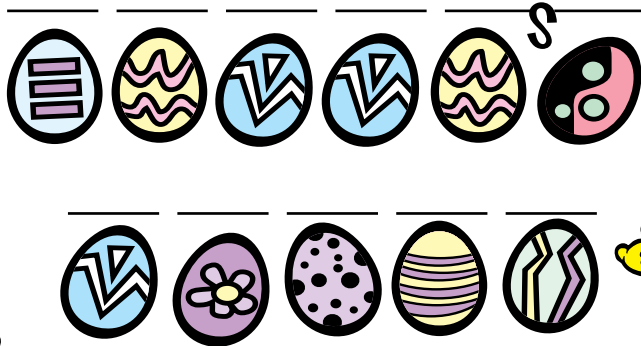
The secret code to crack Beeper's riddle is hidden in the egg rows.

is the letter A. The egg to the right of it is B. The next is C, and so on.

The alphabet follows in order from left to right, top to bottom. Each egg stands for one letter of the alphabet.

Standards Links: Decoding: Recognize letters of the alphabet. Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

What kind of stories do bunnies like best?



### Extra! Extra!

#### Facts vs. Opinions

Look through the newspaper for advertisements with an Easter theme. Circle the facts in yellow. Circle the opinions in green.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Distinguish between fact and opinion in expository text.

IN 60 SECONDS, find as many marshmallow chickies on this page as you can. Then have a friend try. Who found more?

### What a Character!

#### Caring is ...



... leaving a nice note telling a family member how much you love them.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### BUNNY HUNT

Y B U N N Y N U B  
 N N B Y N N U B U  
 N U N B U Y B Y N  
 U Y B U N N Y N N  
 B U N N B U N N Y  
 U N B N U N N U N  
 N Y B Y N N U B N  
 N U Y N N U B A U  
 Y N N U Y N N U B

How many times can you find the word BUNNY in this puzzle?

**HINT:** The word BUNNY is spelled forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. You may use the same letter more than once.

#### SCORING

- 1 - 3 = Good Start
- 4 - 6 = Very Good
- 6 - 10 = Excellent
- 11 + = Awesome!

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the importance of individual action and character.

### Double Double Word Search

- ORIGAMI
- JAPAN
- ALPHABET
- BASKET
- BEEPER
- BUNNY
- OPINIONS
- AWESOME
- DELIVERY
- SILLY
- GREEN
- EASTER
- PAPER
- EGG
- MAKE

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

H O G R E T S A E Y  
 A P R P K N Y R T R  
 Y I E I A A E E E E  
 L N E A M P B P K V  
 L I N S T A G A S I  
 I O E U H J G P A L  
 S N R P B A E I B E  
 L S L B E E P E R D  
 L A W E S O M E B O

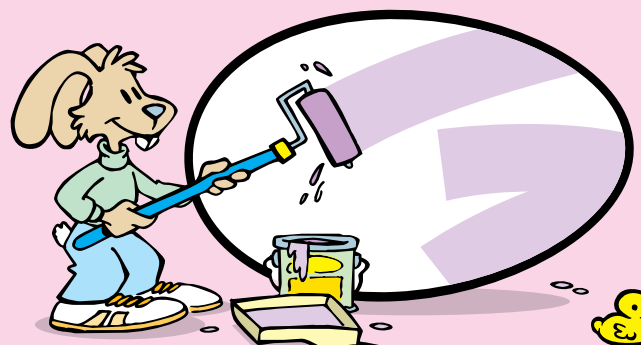
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

#### Trust

Who do you trust? Do you know why? Can you find a picture in the newspaper of someone you trust? Can you find a picture of someone you would not trust?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information; Health: Recognize qualities that build strong character.



### Why do we paint Easter eggs?

ANSWER: Because it's easier than wallpapering them!

### Write On!

#### Easter Bunny Spotted!

The Easter Bunny has been spotted and you're the reporter covering the story. Be sure to tell who, what, when, where, why and how.



# Church

## SERMON of the WEEK



### THE DETAILS

By Elder Demetrius Hunter

Psalms 37:25 "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

At this time my grandson is learning how to make sentences better by adding details or compound sentences. As I help him with his homework throughout the week, I get to see him elevate in his communication and see how he recognizes the details in life. His childlike enthusiasm was amazing to watch. He is in love with the details.

Now here we see in this Psalm the writer details how we should not fear or be troubled by evildoers. The writer details how God will deal with the evildoer and how the righteous will be rewarded. With that said, I want to draw your attention to the point that the writer makes in this passage of scripture. Let us see what we can learn from this verse.

Righteous Living: Just like with my grandson, to build a

detailed sentence, you must know what to use. Adjectives help bring details in a sentence. Knowing how to use commas and conjunctions is vital in building detailed sentences. But when it comes to righteous living, we must know what to use. We must understand the details of righteousness; the only way to get those details is through the Word. David said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against thee." The Word is what we need to understand righteous living.

Righteous living does not mean perfection because in the 24th verse it says, "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." Righteousness is the pursuit of perfection through grace. But we must learn all about this grace and this life through the Word of God. So, we must get the details of the life we should live from the Word.

It's in the Details: Often times while trying to live righteously;

we lose perspective on how good God is. We get so consumed in chasing the miracle that we miss the details. The details in our lives are the things that really display how good God is. See, while we wait on the miracle, let us not forget the blessings of the right now. These details are what we should get excited about.

The songwriter said when I think of the goodness of Jesus. I'm so glad he is a God of details. He wakes us up this morning closed in our right minds. The details help keep us grounded. These details show the power of God in our present lives. We should praise Him for the details in our lives. Like Trustee Levi Jones says, "Every time I turn around, the Lord keeps blessing me." He knows what we face, but never forget He is in control. Focus on the details.

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and associate ministers, please visit our YouTube Channel. Thank you!

## Practical Biblical Principles

GRACE SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME READ: GENESIS 6:8

It is time to take another look at ourselves to see if we are still in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). We are told to examine ourselves before we take the holy communion (1 Corinthians 11:28). We must also ask God to examine us (Psalms 26:2). We examine ourselves to see just how much sin is still in us. There is a certain amount of sin still in us, but how much?

No one wishes to be associated with sin of any kind, whether you are in church or not. Christians have a way of dealing with their sin and that is through Jesus Christ. The world deals with its sins by redefining the word and moving toward the culture of humanism. Humanism is when one becomes their own god. The words wretched, transgressor, iniquity, and evil are not being heard anymore when it comes to describing sin. Out of sight out of mind. If the world doesn't use the sin-words, it will then usually redefine it. For an example, 'a murder' is no longer evil but is called 'mentally ill.'

Is it possible that we can really live without sin? If not, how then can we then live Christian lives as God would have us to live? The scripture tells us there is none that is righteous, no not one (Romans 3:10). I can't recall the scriptures telling us to live a perfect life. However, it does tell us to live a righteous life. How can we then live a righteous life if sin still resides within us? The answer is yes, we can, but it has all to do with God's Amazing Grace. It has all to do with Jesus dying in our place on that ole rugged cross. One of the greatest gifts God gave to mankind and it came out of the pain and suffering which Jesus endured, was 'Grace.'

One may ask what does grace have to do with living a Christian life? Grace has all to do with living the life God wants all Believers to live. Given our hu-

man, spiritual imperfections, God looks at all Believers through His crucified Son, Jesus the Christ. A Believer is one who has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior in the repenting of his/her sins. It is then that God looks at those who have accepted His Son as being "righteous" and without sin. This is another definition of Grace. It is by grace that we are saved through faith (Acts 15:11). Faith is needed in that one has 'to believe' that grace is available from God and that it came from Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

John Newton knew what he was talking about when he wrote the soul stirring song, "Amazing Grace." During those years at sea, Newton endured depression and suppressed his guilt about transporting slaves from Africa to America. Newton knew slaves would be torn away from their families, some would die during the crossing; Newton endured the sounds of grunts and groans coming from the physical and emotional paining of black slaves chained in a human cesspool of his cargo ship. John Newton was brought up as Christian by his godly parents. Newton in his letter written in 1754 stated, "I don't believe that I have ever since met so daring a blasphemer as myself. Not content with common profanities and cursing, I daily invented new ones...." Newton believed he deserved death, but God spared him during a rough storm at sea.

We can never arrive at a definition of Grace without seeing sin as our point of departure. And it is sin we must get rid of first. Grace comes only after one repents and not before. As Paul cites in his personal sin confession (Romans 7:24), Paul sees himself tied to a death sentence as long as he allows sin to stay in his life. One commentary describes this as Roman soldiers permanently tying a dead corpse onto the back of a Jewish prisoner. "Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ!" (Romans

7:25). Being spared when one deserves death is called "saved by God's Grace (Romans 3:10-18). This is a suit that we all have worn or is wearing.

Here is our key to Grace. "But the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed (Romans 3:1). Jesus on the cross revealed God's righteousness which Jesus, Himself, passes on to us who believe in Him.

We have no righteousness of our own. We can't earn it, nor can we buy it. If we have any righteousness it is given to us by Jesus. God's righteousness is nothing that we can earn or deserve. Such is given and offered to us through and by the Grace of God. In a real sense, God looks at us as if we have never sinned a day in our lives because of Christ's righteousness. Given something by God we don't deserve, or merit is called Grace.

The pathway to our salvation and eternal life is: Jesus' death on the cross extols or produces righteousness caused by His obedience to the Father. The Father then gives His righteousness to Jesus, the Son. Jesus' Righteousness cleans all sins away from man who repents. Man is no longer guilty before God. God becomes man's friend and desires to fellowship with him again. God has forgiven and forgotten all the ugly things man has done out of disobedience to Him. Therefore, because of God's offered righteousness to man through His Son, Jesus Christ, man is redeemed from the curse of the law and is free from the penalty of death. Thus, exchanging death for eternity, which is a gift from God. In short, God's righteousness through Christ produces the Grace (unmerited favor) which gives all former sinners eternal life. We are saved by Grace - God's Amazing Grace!

J. L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral Durham, NC Website: www.myn-jbc.org Email: njbc84@gmail.com

## Can Church Curb Mental Health Crisis

Centuries of systemic racism and everyday discrimination in the U.S. have left a major mental health burden on African American communities, and the past few years have dealt especially heavy blows.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that Black Americans are twice as likely to die of COVID-19, compared with white Americans. Their communities have also been hit disproportionately by job losses, food insecurity and homelessness as a result of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, racial injustice and high-profile police killings of Black men have amplified stress. During the summer of 2020, amid both the pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests, a CDC survey found that 15% of Black respondents had "seriously considered suicide in the past 30 days," compared with 8% of white respondents.

For a variety of reasons, many African Americans face barriers to mental health care. But as a sociologist who focuses on community-based organizations, I find that strengthening relationships between churches and mental health providers can be one way to increase access to needed services. In research with my collaborators Eunice Wong and Kathryn Derose, I analyzed data on the prevalence of mental health care provision among religious congregations and found that many African American congregations offer such programs.

Roughly 1 in 5 Americans experience mental illness in a given year. Yet fewer than half of adults with a mental health condition receive mental health services.

African Americans utilize mental health services at about one-half the rate of white Americans. In part, this underuse may stem from African Americans' often fraught relationship with medical establishments in the U.S., given their histories of racial bias and

malpractice against people of color. Part of the reason may also derive from stigma among some African Americans perceiving mental illness and seeking help as signs of weakness. Treatment "deserts" where mental health providers are scarce may also be a factor.

One often overlooked resource for mental health care, however, are churches. For the past decade, the National Congregations Study has documented the prevalence of mental health care provision among places of worship in the U.S. Based on data from the NCS' 2018 survey, 26% of congregations provide mental health programming, and 37% of people who attend religious services attend one of these congregations. Such programming can include support groups, meetings and classes focused on addressing mental health concerns.

Previously, my co-researchers and I analyzed 2012 NCS data to better understand mental health resources within religious congregations. One of our goals was to identify factors that contribute to a congregation offering mental health care. These factors include having more members, employing staff for social service programs and providing health-focused programs. Other significant predictors include conducting community needs assessments, hosting speakers from social service organizations and being located in a predominantly African American community.

Based on the new 2018 survey, 45% percent of African American congregations offer some form of mental health service and nearly half of all African American churchgoers attend a congregation with such programs. These rates show an increase since 2012 and are roughly 50% greater than those among predominantly white congregations.

This research supports longstanding observations about African American congregations as critical sources of spiritual, emo-

tional and social support for their communities. Many religious people see their spiritual health and mental health as intertwined, and research indicates that spiritual practices, such as prayer and meditation, can also support mental health.

Our research suggests that building collaborations between African American congregations and the mental health sector is a promising strategy to increase access to needed services. Given that 61% of African Americans say they attend worship services at least a few times a year, congregations may provide an accessible resource.

At times, pairing religion and mental health may prove harmful. Some congregations see mental health problems as a product of personal sin, for example, and stigmatize people suffering from mental illness.

But congregations can also be helpful environments. When clinical treatment is supplemented with social support, the likelihood of successful outcomes is greater, and houses of worship often provide built-in social networks. People participating in a congregation-led grief recovery group, for example, can be involved in the congregation beyond their weekly meeting. In addition, some mental health professionals provide pro bono services for congregation-based programs.

Social worker Victor Armstrong, the director of North Carolina's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, asserts that African American faith leaders can play a "pivotal role" in mental wellness. He suggests shifting language to focus on "wellness" rather than "illness" in order to decrease stigma, among other recommendations.

Greater collaboration between congregations and mental health providers could help stem the growing mental health crisis, particularly within African American communities.

## Obituaries

Leon Walker Herndon, Sr. was born December 31, 1938, the second child of the late Garland and Bertha Herndon, in Apex, N.C. He departed this life surrounded by loved ones on March 16, 2023 at his home in Cary, NC.

Leon's start to life was somewhat challenging, as he was born prematurely, weighing only 3lbs. He would quickly make up for lost time, however, growing to far exceed the size of most of his peers.

Leon was educated in the Chatham County, NC school system, first as a student of his mother's at Haywood Elementary, then eventually matriculating at Horton High School where he excelled in both academics and athletics.

Upon graduation, he would follow in his mother's and older sister's footsteps by attending Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. While at Shaw, Leon would continue to excel as a member of the football team, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and as Senior Class President. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1960, and subsequently attended North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University), earning his Master's degree in Education in 1962 and his Education Administration Principal's Certification at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Leon's career in education took him throughout the state, starting as a teacher in St. Paul's, NC, where he taught Science and won

a State Championship as the Head Basketball Coach. He achieved his greatest victory, however, by marrying the love of his life, Shirley Wright, in 1963. A year later, they welcomed their first child, Lisa, to the family.

Following his tenure at St. Paul's High School, Leon moved back to the Triangle area to become a Science teacher at Ligon High School in Raleigh. In 1968, in the newly integrated Wake County Public School System, Leon joined Enloe High School as a Science teacher, then shortly thereafter, was promoted to Assistant Principal. In 1972, he made history at Enloe by becoming the first African-American Principal of a predominately white school in the history of the county.

In 1983, Leon made history once again by returning home and becoming the first African-American Principal of Apex High School. Following a successful tenure at Apex, he returned to Raleigh as the Principal of Carroll Middle School, later retiring from the school in 2001.

During Leon's ascension in the Wake County Public School System, he remained vigilant as a tireless servant to his community. He served as the Corresponding Secretary for the Phi Lambda chapter (Raleigh) of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for a number of years, as Chairman of the White Oak precinct of the Democratic Party, as an Advisory Board Member of the NC State Employees



Credit Union, as a Life Member of the NAACP, an original board member of the White Oak Foundation and as a charter member of the Capital City Sertoma Club of Raleigh. The Sertoma Club always had a cherished place in Leon's heart as he helped build the Capital City chapter from an unknown entity to one of the most impactful civic organizations in the Triangle community. He held numerous positions with the club, most notably as an International Director of the Atlantic Region and Life Member of Sertoma, Inc., where he presided over thousands of members.

Following his retirement from the Wake County Public School System, Leon never let any grass grow under his feet as he embarked upon one of his most ambitious endeavors yet. In 2000, he joined his wife, Shirley, in founding Bright Beginnings Child Development Center, a 5 star preschool located in Cary, NC.

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# Editorials

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials in this space are the opinion of the newspaper. All other opinion pieces, including those from regular columnists, are the opinion of the writers themselves. The Carolinian strives to provide provocative commentary that is likely to spur thoughtful debate, regardless of whether we agree with it.

### AN INQUIRY INTO THE PROSPECTS OF A WEB

By H.E. Wesley, Jr.

Carolina Call

(April 2008)—In this era of “one size fits all,” when being “politically correct” includes accepting miscegenation or crossbreeding is an everyday occurrence, the struggle for racial existence is a never-ending one. The fact that there are four races, black, brown, yellow, and white as a natural to human existence appears to be a misnomer. But is it?

In his book—An Essay on the Principle of Population, T. R. Malthus writes; “At the end of each day, the world now has over two hundred thousand more mouths to feed than it had the day before; at the end of every week, one and one-half million more; at the close of each year, an additional eighty million. Aware of these alarming statistics, many national governments, influential institutions, and private enterprises are trying to encourage increased production of all necessities of life, particularly food, in the hope of preventing mass starvation, privation, and social disorder.”

But what Mr. Malthus is not saying is, the Black Race is not representing among those national governments, influential institutions, and private enterprises. The white, the yellow and brown races have systems, both cultural and economic to assure racial purity, but not the Black Race. Why? Because the postcolonial era has turned into the neo-colonial era. That is to say, the Black Race has not recovered from slavery or colonialism and now we have neo-colonialism to contend with.

There is a striggle in this postcolonial/neo-colonial era for the Black leadership to maintain the natural order; and that should include maintaining the unique qualities of being an African. Therefore, if the Black Race is to survive we cannot escape our duty of supplying food, shelter, and clothing to our own, while discouraging miscegenation or crossbreeding as part of the natural phenomenon. The African Slave Trade placed Africans all over the globe. Now the Goba African Family has a monumental problem of mass starvation, privation, and social disorder.

There are those think this problem developed naturally; it did not. The white and yellow races in particular need Africa's resources for their existence. Consider the fact that the intellectual African is leaving Africa in droves, and as such, Africa as the central physical location for a healthy exchange of Africans when the subject is African culture and or economic is decreasing. Africa is inundated with Euro-Americans and Asians in an effort drive Africa under their control, economically and militarily.

People of African descent in the West have the notion that we are in the best position to spearhead the struggle. Yes, in the West there are hundreds of different organizations that with unanimity of purpose could form the nucleus of a powerful force toward improving the status of Black people; but do we have unanimity of purpose? This article is an inquiry into the development of a formula for African unity called a Worldwide Expression of Blackness (WeB).

The WeB is simply a group of conscious minded individuals talking to each other, sharing ideas, information and resources. In short, the WeB is a “Race First” tool for establishing linkages among Black people as individuals, organizations or as clusters—people working for a common concern.

The WeB unofficially exists today as a church or other organizational communications tool. But the concept must be expanded to cover the Global African Family to foster self-help, to exchange information, to improve productivity and to share resources. The WeB must be universal in that it must cover the African world interconnecting Africans at home and abroad—locally, regionally and internationally.

The notion of a worldwide expression of Blackness can be defined as an instrumental tool designed to weaving a network, or matrices that interconnect the Global African American Family into a womb containing the developing 21st century African foetus. The womb nourishes different kinds of organizations with a common interest in the affairs of Black People—not solely political organizations but scientific, cultural, religious, environmental, etc.

We must have realistic thoughts on what does and does not produce prosperity and freedom, so the purpose of the WeB is to disseminate information across the new African spectrum. What have you experienced that could be useful as a basis for today and a better tomorrow? The WeB could be more instrumental in getting your views across the spectrum. You may say that this is just another romantic view, maybe so but we say “open your eyes”—there is more, more depth height, dimensions, perspectives, choices than we had imagined. Yesterday's tragedy-laden historic drama is over, what are our strategies for tomorrow?

Only two outcomes are imaginable from our tragedy-laden drama. One is the descent of large portions of the poorer classes into a condition of steadily worsening social disorder, marked by shorter life expectancies, further stunting of physical and mental capabilities, political apathy intermingled with riots and pillaging when crops fail; or the opposite.

The former situation is like having a thorn stuck in your brain. It requires no adjustment as it slowly drives you insane. There is no insane laughter associated with the latter situation. Observe what is happening in the United States today. George W. Bush rules as if he heads a dictatorial government serving the interest of a small economic and military upper class and presiding over the rotting countryside with mixed resignation, indifference, and despair.

This economic/military game plan of Euro-Americans is rampant all over the world with the masses existing by operating within the confines of “butler-ship.” Butler-ship is a few degrees above “slave-ship.” The situation of the Black Race is—we are being consigned to a state of perpetual misery, a few degrees below slavery.

But there is an alternative—and in the long run a more probable course of action that may avoid this dreadful descent into hell. It is certainly possible for the Global African Family to organize ourselves into a collective absence of inhibitions with respect to the exercise of power to bring out the light of a brighter day to our kin and kind.

However, a simple dimensional approach will not solve our multi-dimensional problems. For a collective to work the Black Race much think in terms of a reorganization of agriculture, both technically and socially, the provision of employment by massive public works, and above all the resurrection of hope in a demoralized and apathetic people.

These are logical initial steps to bring about economic and social changes. The problems are, first: these steps are likely to require a revolutionary mind, rehabilitated away from individualism to an allegiance to group action in the interest of the Black Race as a whole. And secondly: opposition will incur from those who benefit from the existing organization of society; and thirdly: a revolutionary government, one whose leaders are apt to have the determination to ram many needed changes down the throats of an uncomprehending and perhaps resistive peasantry.

The last thing the Global African Family needs is the eventual rise of “iron governments,” probably of a military-social caste. The emergence of such regimes carries implications, probably of a far-reaching kind. Even the most corrupt governments today are aware of the ghastly situation of the world's present economic condition that can be equated to an immense train, in which a few passengers ride in first class coaches, in conditions of comfort unimaginable to the enormously greater numbers crammed into the cattle cars that make up the bulk of the train's carriages.

The passengers in the first-class coaches not only ride at their ease but also have decorated their compartments and enriched their lives by using the work and appropriating the resources of the masses that ride behind them.

Maybe we should get back to the idea of the WeB. The formulation of a WeB will enable each group to maintain their uniqueness while at the same time:

- Having a wide range of options and new information while sharing your research or concerns. With the WeB concept you can keep abreast of new happenings firsthand so that you and your constituents will be in the know and in a position to participate and at the same time you will have an instrument for getting your findings and your programs across to a wider audience. For years the Black Race have been talking about getting together. We have talked about the need for unity, establishing linkages with our brethren on the continent, in the Caribbean, etc. Maybe the first step to such linkages should be with ourselves.

- Through the WeB matrix concept, the African world can establish a marketing network, attaining high standards without obsessively focusing all our energies in production for exchange.

- With a work force that is diversified, the WeB can effect change in medical practices. We can reduce infant mortality and improve life span, literacy, nutrition, and the general quality of life without surrendering our African culture/religious values.

- The development strategies need not come from London, Washington, Moscow, or Tokyo. Instead we will return to the examples of our ancestors, that of being the originators, not the imitators of growth and progress. By joining forces, we will put the accent on our efforts in a new perspective. A joint force using the lessons learned in the 20th century would not overemphasize economic expansion at the expense of ecology, culture, religion or family structure or the psychological dimensions of existence. We can in short order turn the world's poorest nations into nations with wholly new opportunities.



## FUNDraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw  
Saad & Shaw



### WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS OF FUNDRAISING HEALTH

How's your fundraising going? Are you determining your progress by the amount of money raised? If yes, you may be miscalculating. Here's why. Fundraising is about more than “just” meeting or exceeding goals. Yes, “meeting goal” is a key indicator, but, if that is the only measure in use you may be in for a surprise. Take a look at where your nonprofit's money comes from, and consider the following:

What percentage – and what amount – of the funds you receive come from foundations, government grants, individual gifts, earned revenue, online giving, sponsorships or underwriting, interest from endowment, or release of dollars from your reserve fund? Are you comfortable with how the percentages and amounts are spread across revenue sources? Take a close look at where exactly the funds come from within each category.

Are any of these one-time gifts or grants? For example, many nonprofit organizations and institutions have seen an increase in revenue from government sources. Many of these funds are grants from local, state, or federal sources that may not be renewed.

We also recommend looking closely to see if there were any multi-year grants that were awarded all in one year. For example, you may have received \$300,000 to be used over a three-year period. If the funds were transmitted at one time, your current year may show great fundraising success, but if you include the \$300,000 in your baseline for next year, how will you raise that amount next year?

Look for other “unique” gifts. For example, you can't count on receiving a bequest, or unsolicited major gift each year. Think MacKenzie Scott and the fantastic, transformational gifts she has been making. If you don't make adjustments for these unique occurrences, you are setting yourself up for trouble in the coming year, even though it may look as though things are going well right now.

Here are a few other things to consider. How stable are your fundraising staff, volunteer leadership, and even your CEO? Do you anticipate any turnovers, or will everyone

(See **FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES**, P. 11)



## To Be EQUAL

By Marc H. Morial  
President, National Urban League

### DEREGULATION LEADS TO CRASHED TRAINS AND CRASHED ECONOMIES

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank last week didn't unleash hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic chemicals into the water, soil, and air, the way the freight train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, did last month.

But the two events have one important element in common: Deregulation.

Before Silicon Valley Bank collapsed last week, the image most Americans associated with the term “bank run” was the scene in It's a Wonderful Life when George Bailey does out his honeymoon fund to the panicked clients of Bailey Brothers Building and Loan.

Bank runs – triggered by the losses banks incurred through speculation in stocks – caused much of the economic damage of the Great Depression. To stabilize and restore public confidence in the nation's banks, Congress enacted the Glass-Steagall Act, which insured deposits and prohibited commercial banks from speculative investments.

The Glass-Steagall Act worked so well for nearly seven decades that Congress decided to gut it in 1999, allowing banks to originate fraudulent loans and sell them to their customers as securities. The financial collapse of 2008, also known as the Great Recession, was the result.

Once again, Congress stepped in to restore stability to the financial services industry, enacting the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. And once again, Congress ignored the lessons of history and gutted key provisions of the law in 2018, exempting banks like SVB from regulations and requirements that could have prevented its collapse.

It's not hard to see the parallels between SVB's collapse and the East Palestine train derailment. While we cannot point to the repeal of a specific regulation that could have prevented the disaster, it's clear that underregulation was a major fact. According to Railroad Workers United, the derailed train was excessively long and heavy and the cars were arranged in a dangerous fashion. The train was not inspected properly “due to car inspectors being laid-off” and “time allowed per car inspection being dramatically reduced by the industry.”

History is rife with examples of lax regulation resulting in calamity – for the economy, for the environment, and for the health and lives of workers. The 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, which took the lives of 146 garment workers, inspired dozens of regulations improving fire safety, factory inspection, and sanitation and employment policies for women and children, and other labor protections.

But even child labor protections are not safe. Arkansas last

week weakened its law to allow children as young as 14 to work up to 28 hours per week, even without the permission of their parents. At least 10 states have introduced or passed laws rolling back child labor protections in the past two years.

Let us hope it does not take another deadly tragedy to persuade the nation of the error of its ways.

## A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



### NON-LIBERAL RACISM?

This week on Real Talk with Bill Mahr, one of his guests, John McWhorter was present to support Bill's theories about woke-ness. If you have never heard of him, McWhorter is a linguistics professor from Columbia University. He argues the importance of the 1619 Project and suggests that the standards are being lowered to achieve equity. Bill Mahr seems to like him (McWhorter) for three reasons: (1) he's African American (2) he considers him to be smart (3) he agrees with Bill about what black people need to do to be free in America.

McWhorter is author of “Woke Racism”. One review states its “Nice to see an author take on the P-C establishment and the establishment culture (cancel)”. “Unfortunately the book was poorly edited and repetitive”. Kind of a judgement of him having lowered standards right?

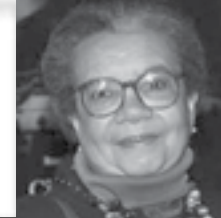
Clearly, you must know that I do not agree with either of these men. I believe that the fear of the 1619 Project, Black Lives Matters, and “Wokeness” is synonymous with a fear of the truth. I think that the idea of “standing up against racism” as hurting the black community is what psychologists call projection. I believe that the fear of opening the door to the truth about the contributions of African people to the world and African American people to America and the world is rooted in the fear of retaliation and a persistent desire to remain supreme as white people. The dogma that this country has persisted in teaching that skin color creates superiority is paramount in keeping the races apart and hued people submissive has been bought like stocks by successful hued people as well. John McWhorter said that equity causes black people and other minorities to be viewed as having been given a good job that they are ungrateful for. He even suggested that the person obtaining the job would continuously feel inferior and unqualified. If this is the case, in my opinion, it is because of successful indoctrination that people of color are inferior. That indoctrination is based on the lack of knowledge of the truth.

I'm not a case in point. Though I have been deprived of an education as it relates to the contributions of my race, I have been

(See **A DIFFERENT VOICE**, P. 11)

## Child Watch

By Marian Wright Edelman



### STILL FIGHTING FOR FAMILIES

If you want to change the world, you change the world of a child.

—Rep. Patricia Schroeder

When former Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder passed away March 13, many people were quick to remember the Harvard-educated lawyer who became the first woman member of Congress from Colorado as a trailblazing feminist politician. As a founding member and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (now known as the Congressional Women's Caucus), she was a leading champion for children's, women's, and family issues who correctly understood that policies that benefit children and their caregivers benefit everyone.

During her 24 years in the House of Representatives, Rep. Schroeder helped pass the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, National Child Protection Act, Violence Against Women Act, and legislation requiring federally funded medical researchers to include women in their studies, among many others. As the first woman on the House Armed Services Committee, she was a consistent and often lonely voice asking whether military spending budgets were unnecessarily large and could be shared with other priorities that were desperately underfunded; as she said, “When men talk about defense, they always claim to be protecting women and children, but they never ask the women and children what they think.” One of her hardest won victories was the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which now guarantees eligible workers up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a family member.

Until its passage, family leave was another issue many people had pigeonholed for years as “just” a mothers' issue. In fact, FMLA helps men and women care for newborns, sick children and spouses, older parents, and other family members, and take care of their own health challenges and serious illnesses. Rep. Schroeder fought for FMLA's passage for nine years and saw it vetoed twice by President George H.W. Bush before President Bill Clinton signed it into law in one of his first significant acts after taking office. But as Rep. Schroeder later explained in an interview with the House historian, “The bill that I introduced was very different

(See **CHILD WATCH**, P. 11)

# Other Viewpoints

## BLACK AND LATINX CHILDREN LEARN BETTER FROM BLACK AND LATINX TEACHERS

Nick Morrison

Contributor

Young children have better learning and problem-solving skills if their teacher shares their ethnicity, suggests new research.

The effect was most pronounced for Black and Latinx children, who developed a better working memory if their teacher was also Black or Latinx.

The findings point towards the potential for raising achievement among non-White students by improving teacher diversity.

“Diversifying the educator workforce represents a key step toward promoting greater equity in schools across the United States,” says Professor Michael Gottfried, from the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education and lead author of the study.

Previous research has highlighted the effect of having a teacher with the same ethnic background in improving academic achievement among older children, but today’s study is one of the first to suggest that similar factors may be at play for younger children.

The study analyzed data on more than 18,000 U.S. children, following them from Kindergarten to the end of first grade, at age six and seven.

Researchers looked in particular at working memory and cognitive flexibility, two measures of executive functioning thought to help children engage in goal-oriented behavior.

The study team - also drawn from North Carolina State and Ohio State universities - tested children’s ability to sort cards by shape, color and border to assess cognitive flexibility. They tested working memory by asking children to repeat an expanding series of numbers.

Researchers also looked at the effect of matching a children’s ethnicity on reading and math scores, comparing results with a control group where the teacher had a different ethnic background to the children.

Reading and math scores were higher when students were an ethnic/racial match, with the size of the effect greatest in Black and Latinx children. Working memory also improved, although there was no perceived impact on cognitive flexibility.

The findings were consistent regardless of standard of teaching, whether children were taught for one or two years by a teacher with the same ethnicity, or whether they attended a public or private school.

“Our results add to the substantive evidence that ethno-racial representation among American educators matters by underscoring a key way in which students’ developmental skills are developed in schools,” says Prof Gottfried.

“This is a critical step forward as students’ working memory, a core component of executive function, has been consistently linked to improvements in student achievement and is most malleable in early childhood.”

Previous research suggests that there are significant differences in executive functioning skills - known predictors of academic success - between different ethnicities.

Studies also found that Black and Latinx children start Kindergarten significantly behind their White classmates in both cognitive flexibility and working memory.

But while Black and Latinx children may benefit from having a teacher of the same ethnicity, the odds are against that happening.

Both Black and Latinx teachers are underrepresented in the classroom compared with the student population.

Around 15% of students at U.S. public elementary and secondary schools but just 6% of teachers are Black.

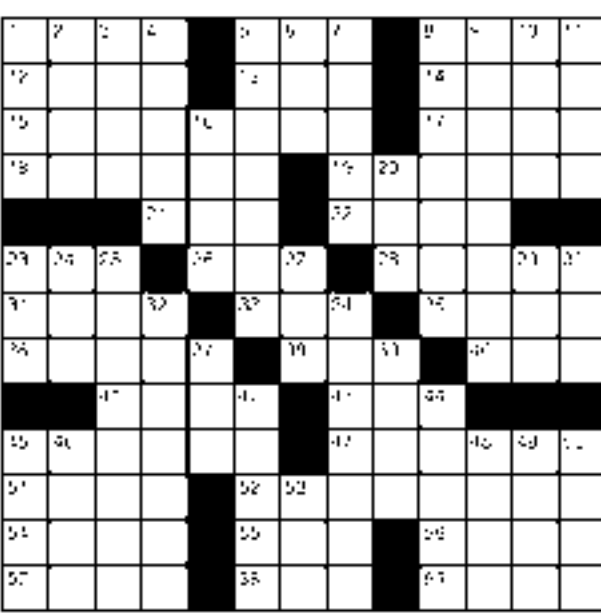
Latinx students make up around 28% of the total student population, but Latinx teachers make up just 9% of the teacher workforce.

The discrepancy is just as stark in the U.K. Around a third (35%) of all students in England but just 10% of all teachers are from a minority ethnic group. Around 6% of students are Black, but less than 3% of teachers.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Release money
- 5 Officer
- 8 Wife of Zeus
- 12 “Born Free” kness
- 13 Billboards
- 14 Elliptical
- 15 Region of northern Italy
- 17 Breathing (Abor)
- 18 Start a round
- 19 Avian noises
- 21 Irish actor Stephen
- 22 Visibility hindrance
- 23 Arced tennis shot
- 26 Like some humor
- 28 Avoids work
- 31 Gumbo or bisque, e.g.
- 33 Work unit
- 35 Minn. neighbor
- 36 Writer Lessing
- 38 Pouch
- 40 “Right”
- 41 Metric measure
- 43 — Alarmos
- 45 Big lizard
- 47 Of the lower back
- 51 Gasp for air



- 52 Snow hosted by Alex Trebek
- 54 Shoppe description
- 55 “Aley —”
- 56 Fashion
- 57 Calendar squares
- 58 ICU workers
- 59 Pianist Myra
- 60 Quirky
- 7 Intimidate with “out”
- 8 Where earth meets sky
- 9 Botany brand
- 10 Grate
- 11 Swiss peaks
- 16 Not many
- 20 Actor Holbrook
- 23 “Ack!”
- 24 Tic-tac-toe win
- 25 French red wine
- 27 Decade parts (Abbr)
- 29 Air safety org
- 30 Firmament
- 32 Pittsburgh team
- 34 Runs like a horse
- 37 — Salvador
- 39 Brilliant stroke
- 42 College study
- 44 Bright
- 45 Apple product
- 46 Big bash
- 48 Party cheese
- 49 Toasts in
- 50 De loaves
- 53 Long time

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## FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Continued from page 10

stay with the organization?

How involved is your board with fundraising? If they increase their engagement your fundraising can improve. But if they decrease their involvement your numbers could move in the opposite direction.

What about your pool of current and prospective donors? Is the average size gift increasing or decreasing?

What about your donor attrition rate? This refers to the number of donors who give one year, but don’t give the next and may not ever give again. Do you know how to track this number and compensate for it with your planning?

Are you seeing an increase in unsolicited gifts? Your ability to analyze these numbers will depend upon your data management system, which is part of your fundraising capacity and infrastructure. Finally, check to see if everyone is aligned with your fundraising goals and what the funds will be used for. If there’s any dissent or lack of understanding, it’s time to add this to your list of things to do! Count more than money when measuring your fundraising health!

## A DIFFERENT VOICE

Continued from page 10

a witness to the people who surrounded me in my family, church, school, and community who were just plain brilliant. I have been observant of my fellow classmates, little children in the world, mine and others who are just plain brilliant. Yes, I could do a roll call but I will not because having lived seventy six years there will be too many names to call. I think I was born “woke” so I think this comes from

## CHILD WATCH

Continued from page 10

than what we finally got passed, because we obviously had to water it down a lot and it took a lot to make it through . . . We had to take out the paid part, which breaks my heart. We still haven’t gotten the paid part.” In another interview she put it this way. “It is still so watered down, I’m almost embarrassed to say that’s my bill . . . I do not think there is a capital in the world that talks more about family values and does less.”

Thirty years after FMLA was signed into law, President Clinton returned to the White House last month to join President Biden at a ceremony celebrating its anniversary. But despite the critical protections FMLA did put into place, our nation still has not accomplished paid family and medical leave. This was one of the priorities President Biden laid out again in his State of the Union address in January, and now, in the recently released fiscal year 2024 budget proposal. As the White House says: “The vast majority of America’s workers do not have access to paid family leave, including three out of four private sector workers. Among the lowest-paid workers, who are predominately women and workers of color, 92 percent have no access to paid family leave through their employers. The Budget proposes to establish a national, comprehensive paid family and medical leave program, providing up to 12 weeks of leave to allow eligible workers to take time off to care for and bond with a new child; care for a seriously ill loved one; heal from their own serious illness; address circumstances arising from a loved one’s military deployment; or find safety from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.”

# ‘An o-o-old song’: The Black Musician Who Captivated 1820s London

By Tony Montague

The Guardian

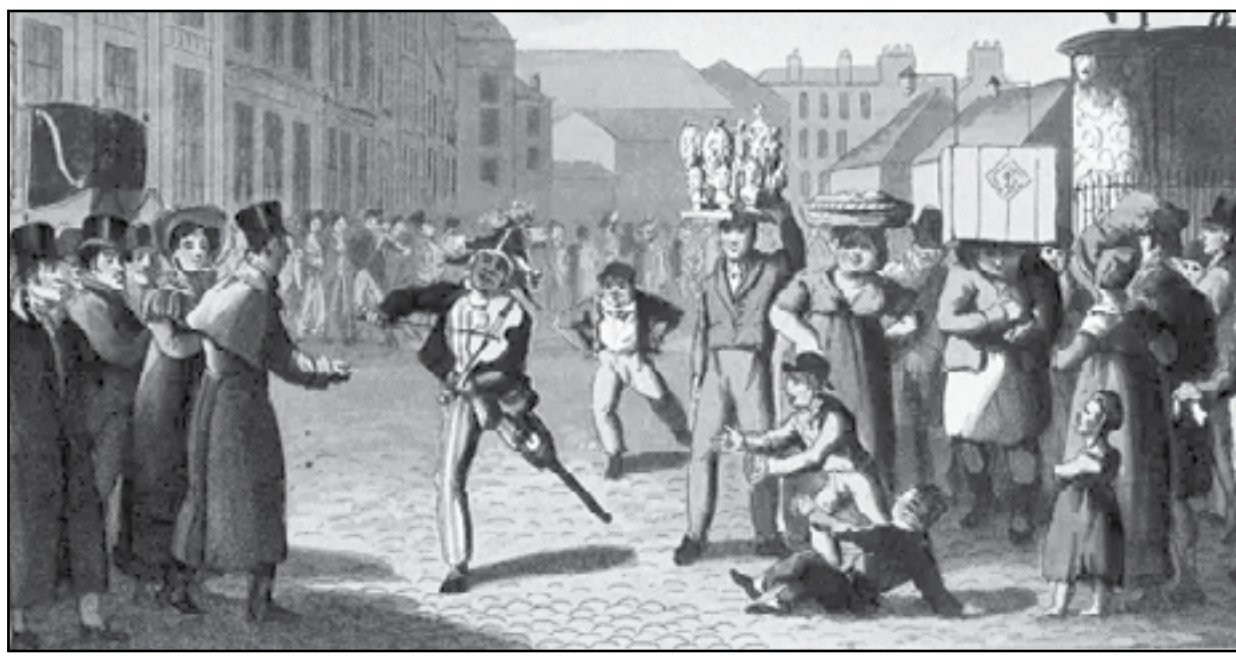
Two hundred years ago, a one-legged Black pauper lay in the infirmary of the St Giles-in-the-Fields workhouse, slowly fading away. It was a sad end to the remarkable life of Billy Waters – the first African American musician to become celebrated in Britain.

Billy, as he was widely known, didn’t perform on any stage. He fiddled, sang and danced as a busker on the streets of London’s West End. It was his sole means of supporting his beloved “Poll” and their two young children. But busking was deemed begging – and illegal. Billy constantly risked arrest, and some months prior to his final sickness he was taken to court and threatened with prison if caught again. Before entering the workhouse he pawned his fiddle.

Billy Waters died on 21 March 1823. In his last years he became a legendary figure, hailed as a genius by writer and dramatist Douglas Jerrold, who had seen him perform. But hard facts about Waters are few, and in their absence he’s remained obscure – his origins unknown save that he was once a sailor.

On the bicentenary of his death, a measure of justice is coming at last to this pioneering Black Londoner. An Early Day Motion tabled in parliament by Bell Ribeiro-Addy, MP for Streatham, recognises Waters’ contribution to popular culture in Britain; and a commemorative plaque by the Nubian Jak Community Trust will be unveiled where he lived in the former St Giles Rookery.

Why has it taken so long for Waters to gain wide recognition? As a roots-music writer, I only came across him by chance a few years ago in Dublin, where I found a striking image of Waters on a collection of minstrel tunes – the only published music with any link to him, almost certainly indirect. Who was this extraordinary looking man? I was intrigued and began researching, reading and listening. The outline of a life started to emerge. In the National Archives in Kew, the muster-book of the



ship he sailed on revealed that William Waters was born in New York during the American revolution; and that in 1811, at the climax of the Napoleonic wars, he enlisted in the Royal Navy as an able seaman – an experienced sailor. At first he was on the supply-ship HMS Namur whose captain was Jane Austen’s brother Charles. Waters then joined the crew of HMS Gany-mede, and was soon promoted to quarter gunner, with the rank of petty officer. The 26-gun frigate led a convoy from Portsmouth to Spain; but on the voyage home, while loosening sail aloft he slipped, and plummeted to the deck. The captain noted tersely: “Wm Waters fell from the main yard & broke both his legs, otherwise severely wounded him.” His left leg was amputated below the knee.

Growing up by New York’s waterfront, Billy Waters would have learned how to play fiddle and perform solo dances in dock-side taverns and markets. Such agility and entertainment skills were valuable for any young sailor. As a wounded veteran in London he drew on them again to supplement a meagre pension, taking a pitch outside the Adelphi theatre on the Strand.

Thousands of people of all ages saw and heard Waters busking. His hallmark attire – large military-style headgear with

feathers, judge’s “cauliflower” wig, tattered naval jacket – was a carnivalesque send-up of British authority. He sang and danced while fiddling and made use of his wooden leg to perform “peculiar antics” – pivoting on it, kicking it out. An engraving, “The Notorious Black Billy at Home to a London Street Party”, shows him in action flanked on one side by well-to-do citizens, on the other by children and tradespeople. A white youth mimics his steps.

Waters played for dancing, without accompaniment, and – since he needed to grab attention and be heard above street-cries and noise – his voice would be loud and penetrating, his bowing was probably rhythmic and vigorous, his touch well-accented and syncopated, his tone droning and scratchy. You can hear something similar in Sid Hemphill’s fiddling, with an echo too in Joe Thompson (1918–2012), the last traditional Black fiddler in North Carolina.

Waters embodied a spirit of lively defiance in dark times. In impoverished St Giles, nicknamed “The Holy Land” for its large Irish-Catholic population, he was a well-loved community musician. Waters and family lived in the notorious St Giles Rookery – a maze of narrow streets and courtyards with damp, dilapidated and horribly overcrowded houses, concealed

passages and open sewers just a short distance from the British Museum. At night he played in a public house known as The Beggar’s Opera, the gathering-place of “cadgers”, vagrants, petty thieves, sex workers and street people.

The pub also attracted a few Regency bucks, or swells, who took delight in slumming – among them writer Pierce Egan and caricaturists George and Robert Cruikshank. In Egan’s hugely successful book Life in London, its three swell protagonists – said to be the author and the Cruikshank brothers – pay a visit to a barely disguised Beggar’s Opera. Though not named, Waters is described; and in a key illustration his profile is unmistakable. He became a famous lowlife character, ripe for further exploitation.

Life in London was swiftly adapted for the stage by William Moncrieff as Tom and Jerry, the names of the two principal swells, opening in late 1821 at the Adelphi – Waters’ pitch. In the celebrated Back Slums in the Holy Land scene, former clown Signor Paulo played the role of “Billy Waters” as a disdainful, bullying and ludicrous rogue, the leader of a group of hypocritical beggars. Tom and Jerry ran for a record-breaking 16 months.

This unearned reputation was a far cry from the real Waters,

who we know through only two fragments of reported speech. One comes from TL Busby, the artist who created the portrait of Billy. He wrote circa 1820: “[Billy] has a wife, and, to use his own words, ‘one fine girl, five years old’, and is not a little proud to perceive a resemblance in the child to himself.”

The other fragment is from a newspaper account of his appearance at the Sheriff’s Court of Enquiry in Hatton Garden in 1822 – the same courthouse at which the young Oliver Twist would later appear in Charles Dickens’ novel. The magistrate told Waters sternly that he should take up the offer of a room at the navy’s Greenwich hospital, and his wife would be put “in a way to provide for herself” since she wasn’t allowed to join him, adding that if he was caught begging again he would be committed. Waters, however, declared “he would live and die constant to Poll”; and that nothing but force should separate him from her.

The real Waters suffered greatly from Tom and Jerry’s racist defamation, losing his good name and with it his income as a busker, and his very identity. In later life a remorseful Moncrieff wrote that Waters attended a performance and denounced Paulo, only for the audience to turn on Waters and violently eject him. The authorities also turned on him. Two weeks after Tom and Jerry’s opening he was arrested twice on the same day, charged with “begging and collecting crowds in the streets” and “singing immodest songs”. Wounded in spirit, a year later he was gone.

Waters had fired the popular imagination like no other London street performer. A two-penny broadsheet purporting to show his funeral procession ran to at least 13 printings. References continued for decades: an illustration in Henry Mayhew’s London Labour and the London Poor (1851) depicts a young Blackface fiddler dressed as Waters; an article on British minstrelsy recalls him as the subject of “hero-worship”; Victorian shadow-puppet shows featured “Billy Waters the London Fiddler”, and

for more than 40 years ceramic figurines of him were made.

Sadly Waters left no music – just one bluesy couplet, with variants, from his signature song:

*Polly will you marry me? Polly don’t you cry,*

*Polly come to bed with me and get a little boy*

In 1959, in Mississippi, folk song collectors Alan Lomax and Shirley Collins recorded the octogenarian musician Sid Hemphill playing Polly Will You Marry Me? on homemade banjo. “That’s an o-o-old song,” he adds.

Waters played an important part in the history of popular entertainment in 19th-century Britain, more than a decade before the coming of blackface minstrelsy. He’s the ancestor of buskers, bluesmen, break-dancers, rockers and rappers everywhere – an urban folk hero whose story is resonant still: applauding the installation of the commemorative plaque, Ribeiro-Addy described him as “an inspiration for BAME, disabled and immigrant communities everywhere, and an early herald of the UK’s thriving Black performing arts community”.

Curiously, in certain respects Waters bears comparison with another African American performer well ahead of his time, who also dressed flamboyantly, performed “peculiar antics”, and lived in London’s West End, where he became famous for a few short years and where he died. But Jimi Hendrix died relatively rich; Billy Waters’ body was carried in a flimsy casket from the workhouse to the burial ground by Old St Pancras church, and interred in an unmarked, and unprotected, pauper’s grave.

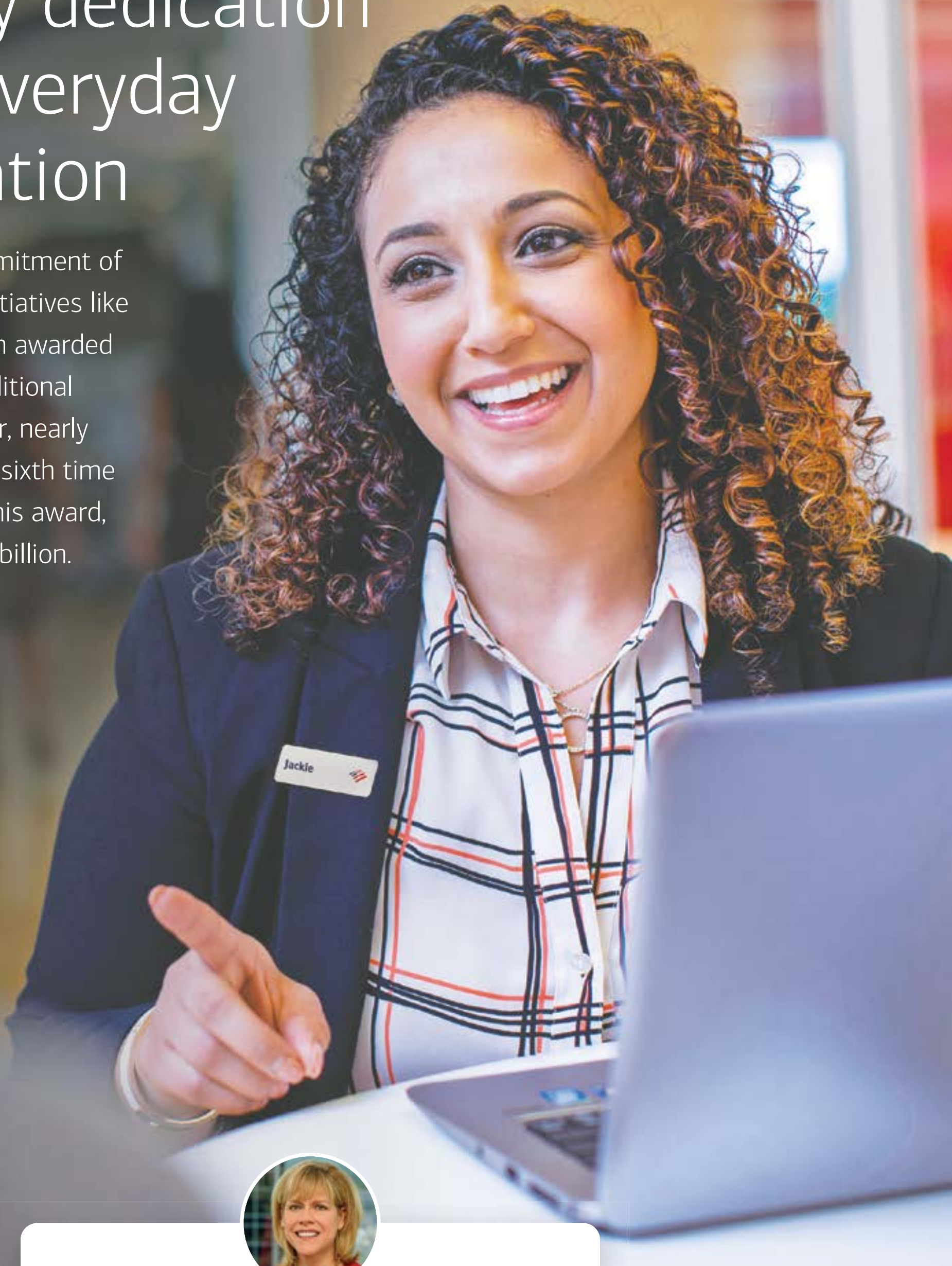
Though much of Waters’ life remains in the shadows, he’s one of very few early Black performers we know anything about at all. He emerges from the margins of Regency society as an intelligent, skilful, and adventurous professional man, and a fun-loving father and husband. For a while he managed to defy the formidable odds stacked against a disabled Black immigrant. But there was no way to escape his ruthless exploitation.





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